



Jordan Times

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Court hints at freedom for Honecker

BERLIN (R) — Berlin's constitutional court opened the way Tuesday for former East German leader Erich Honecker to be freed from jail, saying his continued imprisonment breached basic human rights. Mr. Honecker, 80, who is gravely ill with liver cancer, has been on trial since November on manslaughter charges arising from shootings at the Berlin Wall. The court's nine judges said they were not empowered to order Mr. Honecker's release but the German constitution's protection of human rights meant a criminal court must decide as soon as possible whether to free him. A spokesman for the Berlin justice ministry said the Berlin criminal court's three professional judges and two lay judges were meeting behind closed doors. The constitutional court's ruling annulled the criminal court's previous decisions on keeping Mr. Honecker in investigative custody and his three defence lawyers said he could be freed later in the day. But the justice ministry spokesman said Mr. Honecker could not be released on Tuesday because another court could not meet until Wednesday to decide whether to lift a second arrest warrant against him.

Some Arabs signing chemical ban

CAIRO (AP) — Some Arab countries plan to sign an international agreement banning chemical weapons, Egypt and the Arab League's secretary-general said Tuesday. Such a move would violate a joint Arab decision to protest Israel's nuclear weapons policy by refusing to sign. Neither Egypt's foreign minister, Amr Mousa, nor Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid would divulge who was breaking ranks within the Arab League, which comprises 20 states and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Last September, the Arab League voted unanimously at a council session in Cairo not to sign the chemical agreement until Israel joins the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. As late as Monday, Mr. Mousa reminded reporters of the decision's unanimity. "All the Arab countries will respect this decision not to sign unless Israel takes steps towards nuclear non-proliferation," he said. The United States, Russia and around 120 other countries are expected to sign the chemical pact in Paris during three-day ceremonies opening Wednesday. One Arab diplomat speaking on condition of anonymity said at least three from the Arab bloc also will sign: Algeria and Two Arab states of the Gulf region. The diplomat would not name them.

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'Damascus 10' calls for strike

DAMASCUS (R) — An alliance of 10 hardline Palestinian groups called Tuesday for a general strike in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Sunday in solidarity with more than 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel. The Damascus-based alliance also called on Palestinians in the occupied territories to stage protests outside the homes of Palestinians involved in peace negotiations with Israel to urge them pull out of the talks. They also urged Palestinians to visit the families of the men Israel expelled to South Lebanon on Dec. 17. "We ask all Palestinians inside the occupied Arab territories to participate in a general strike on Jan. 17 to show solidarity with the evictees," the alliance said in a statement. It also urged Palestinians in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan to stage similar protests on Jan. 17 and 18.

Reynolds reelected Irish premier

DUBLIN (R) — The Irish parliament, ending almost two months of political turmoil, Tuesday elected Albert Reynolds to head a coalition government with the largest majority in the history of Ireland. Mr. Reynolds, the big loser in last November's inconclusive general election, was reelected prime minister by 102-60 votes after hammering out a coalition deal with the resurgent Labour Party headed by former Irish rugby international Dick Spring. The alliance, the first between Labour and the ruling Fianna Fail (Soldiers of Destiny) party, has agreed on a five-year blueprint for change, promising to create 30,000 jobs in a flagging economy and defend the punt against speculators.

Nureyev laid to rest

PARIS (R) — Stars of the dance world thronged to the funeral of Rudolf Nureyev at the Paris Opera House Tuesday in a last homage to the temperamental genius widely regarded as this century's greatest ballet dancer. Hundreds of ballet fans pressed against police barriers outside the lavish 19th century theatre in central Paris as six soloists of the Paris Opera Ballet hoisted a plain wooden coffin on to their shoulders and carried it into the entrance. Nureyev, who defected from the Soviet Union to the West in 1961, spellbinding audiences around the world for three decades, died last Wednesday at 54 of a protracted and wasting disease widely believed to be AIDS.

Iran gets 25th province

NICOSIA (AP) — The Iranian parliament Tuesday passed a bill to divide East Azerbaijan and form a separate central Azerbaijan province, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Tuesday. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said East Azerbaijan would be given a new provincial capital, Ardabil. The current provincial capital at Tabriz will go to central Azerbaijan. IRNA said in October that the new province, Iran's 25th, would be named Sahalan. It did not say why this name was dropped.

U.S. navy ship stuck near Suez entrance

PORT SAID (AP) — U.S. Navy technicians came to the rescue Tuesday of a Somalia-bound cargo vessel stuck on a buoy near the entrance of the Suez Canal. Canal officials said the vehicle cargo ship Capella has been stranded since last Thursday, its anchor locked into a light-bearing navigation buoy. About eight kilometers off Port Said harbour, at the canal's northern entrance, as the ship arrived in a storm for its passage from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, its anchor came into contact with the buoy, officials said. They said canal authority technicians were unable to free the ship because of continuing bad weather. It was then decided to bring in the seven U.S. Navy specialists who arrived Tuesday. The Capella is bound for strife-torn Somalia.

Iraqis continue to remove Umm Qasr equipment; allies furious

Iraqi missiles again 'operational'; U.S. says no new warning will be issued before action

Combined agency dispatches

TENSION HEIGHTENED Tuesday between Iraq and U.S.-led allies as unnamed Iraqi workers crossed the disputed border area with Kuwait for the third straight day to remove equipment from a former Iraqi naval base. U.S. officials also reported that Baghdad had been moving anti-aircraft missile batteries around the southern and northern "no-fly" zones in defiance of demands to remove them. President George Bush's press secretary called the situation "a matter of extreme concern" and said Iraq would receive no further warning to halt such actions. Abdul Latif Kabbaj, spokesman for U.N. observers in the demilitarized zone along the Iraq-Kuwait border, said about 150

Iraqis in civilian clothes entered the zone Tuesday to continue removal of equipment from the Umm Qasr base.

"They are demolishing buildings and taking whatever they can — windows, cables, everything," Mr. Kabbaj said.

He said the Iraqis were not armed but again had failed to get the required prior approval from the United Nations for the work.

The latest fury came a day after the U.N. Security Council criticised earlier raids and demanded that Baghdad return anti-aircraft missiles it seized on Sunday.

"Things are clearly indicating that one of the pillars of the ceasefire resolution is undermined," said Hungarian Ambassador Andre Erdos.

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Sahaf: Iraq has U.N. permission to take its property from border

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf Tuesday rejected accusations that his country had violated Gulf war ceasefire terms and said Baghdad had United Nations approval to remove Iraqi equipment from territory which the world body has defined as part of Kuwait.

"There is no Iraqi incursions into Kuwait," Mr. Sahaf told Jordan Television in an interview upon his return from Cairo after attending an Arab League foreign ministers' meeting. "I think (the report of incursions) is disinformation; or for sure it is distortion."

According to the minister, Iraq had reached agreement with Major-General Dhibas, commander of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), to remove "all Iraqi property ... huge amounts of things that should be evacuated ... (from) the Umm Qasr naval base before Jan. 15."

"A big part of this naval base is now on the other side of the line ... after they (the U.N.) imposed the new demarcation line," Mr. Sahaf said referring to the new Iraq-Kuwait borders defined by a U.N. team. Iraq has refused to accept the new borders.

Mr. Sahaf told Jordan Television that UNIKOM had informed the U.N. headquarters of the agreement with Iraq to remove the equipment from Umm Qasr. "The evacuation was (conducted) with the full consent of UNIKOM and the U.N.," he said.

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Bosnian Serbs accept proposals for peace

GENEVA (AP) — The leader of Bosnia's Serbs Tuesday accepted peace proposals for the war-shattered country, a breakthrough towards a settlement after nine months of brutal fighting.

Radevan Karadzic said he told mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen he had given up his demand for a separate Serb state within Bosnia, which had blocked the four-month-old peace talks on former Yugoslavia.

There was no immediate word from Mr. Vance and Lord Owen. Mr. Karadzic confirmed that he had agreed to a constitutional framework proposed by the mediators, subject to approval by the Bosnian Serbs' assembly within a week.

"This is a very important and

essential step toward peace," said Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, at the Geneva talks for the first time. "The basic principles have been accepted by all delegations."

Mr. Karadzic's apparent concession came at the end of the three days of intensive lobbying by his mentor Milosevic, whose fervent nationalism the West has blamed for triggering war in Croatia and Bosnia, and Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic.

Mr. Cosic's spokesman Dragoslav Rancic said "friendly persuasion" was used on Mr. Karadzic.

The Constitutional plan would

(Continued on page 5)

Israel proposes halting nuclear weapons spread

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel, which is widely believed to have a nuclear arsenal, said Tuesday it would propose for the first time this week halting the spread of nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will make the proposal in a speech in Paris where at least 115 countries are expected to sign a U.N. treaty banning chemical weapons, an official said.

"He will develop the idea of a non-proliferation zone for non-conventional arms, including nuclear, but only when there is peace in the region and that's a little bit of a new idea," foreign ministry spokeswoman Tamar Samash said.

"Until now when we talked of

non-conventional arms, we were not including the nuclear weapons part," she said.

Foreign media and academic reports say Israel has nuclear arms although it refuses to confirm or deny their existence.

Israeli officials say only that the Jewish state will not be the first to introduce nuclear arms to the region.

Israel is the only country at Middle East peace talks which refuses to open its nuclear installations to international inspection. Syria changed its mind in February, agreeing to grant access to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Joseph Alpher, deputy head of

(Continued on page 5)

Tourabi: Sudan army rulers to step down

KHARTOUM (R) — Hassan Tourabi, leader of an Islamic fundamentalist movement which dominates Sudanese politics, said Tuesday Sudan's military rulers would step down in the next few weeks or months.

He told Reuters in an interview that the Revolution Command Council (RCC) which took power in a coup in 1989 was now a "token" body which rarely met and was no longer needed.

Dr. Tourabi said the RCC, whose chairman Omar Hassan Al Bashir is head of state, would dissolve itself.

The country's Transitional National Assembly, an appointed parliament, would decide who should be head of state and would govern until parliamentary elections expected in late 1994 or

early 1995.

"It's not a coup," Dr. Tourabi said. "A coup is something against the system. The RCC has promised from day one it intends not to become a military government."

Dr. Tourabi, whose National Islamic Front (NIF) is described by diplomats as holding effective power in Sudan, said people would not tolerate permanent military government.

"If for any reason there is a military government, a final military government, there will never be stability. There will be an uprising one day," he said.

Dr. Tourabi, an Islamic scholar who speaks in impeccable English, the RCC no longer had a

(Continued on page 5)

Somali peace talks stalled; ceasefire accord threatened

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — An outline agreement to declare a ceasefire in Somalia appeared at risk Tuesday because of a warlords' dispute over who should attend a national reconciliation conference.

Delegates to week-long peace talks said the conference was at a deadlock and an agreement in principle to silence Somalia's guns and disarm its myriad militias was threatened.

Most faction leaders accused Mogadishu warlord Mohammed Farah Aided of blocking the ceasefire pact by trying to win special status for three of the most powerful militias at a March 15 conference that is supposed to restore some government in Somalia.

But 11 factions loosely aligned

with his bitter Mogadishu rival Ali Mahdi Mobammad want a broad range of participants such as smaller clan factions, tribal elders and civilian political figures to attend on an equal footing with the major warlords.

Delegates said implementation of a ceasefire and a plan to strip the gunmen of their weapons were dependent upon agreement on who should attend the conference.

In any case, diplomats said, the warlords' control over their militias was minimal and any attempt to disarm them whether by their nominal leadership or a foreign force would be bitterly resisted in a country governed by gun law.

"Aided wants special status

(Continued on page 5)

Moves under way to end dispute over parties

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three of the five groups which have applied for registration as political parties will receive confirmation of their legal status in the next three weeks, a Ministry of Interior official said Tuesday.

The Democratic Party for Progress in Jordan (DPPJ), the Popular Unity Party and the Freedom Party will all receive an acceptance or rejection of their applications by mid-February. Faisal Khasawneh of the Ministry of Interior Political Parties Bureau told the Jordan Times.

With five of 13 political party applicants accepted and three rejected, DPPJ, the next party waiting for legal status, is expecting the Ministry of Interior to rule on its application before Saturday.

Four other parties, three of them leftist in orientation, are expected to receive a response from the Ministry of Interior by March 7.

The political role of left-wing political parties in Jordan was put into question when the Ministry of Interior denied legal status to three leftist applicants in December.

The ministry cited prerequisites and conditions included in the political parties law of 1990 for refusing to legalise the Jordanian Communist Party, the Baath Arab Socialist Party and the Jordan People's Democratic Party.

After the three groups appealed the government's decision with the Higher Court of Justice, they met in a special session with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and a committee of government

ministers in order to resolve the dispute between the two sides.

Activists across the political spectrum feel that democracy and pluralism cannot be achieved in Jordan if left-wing parties are banned for whatever reason.

"I am glad that we had a chance to meet with the prime minister and talk about the situation," said Ahmad Najdawi, head of the Baathist Party. "I think the government has realised that political pluralism and democracy cannot be introduced if the leftists are left out."

Mr. Najdawi was among the leaders of the five leftist parties that met with the government.

A meeting to discuss political issues related to legalisation of left-wing parties took place last week in the home of Depu-

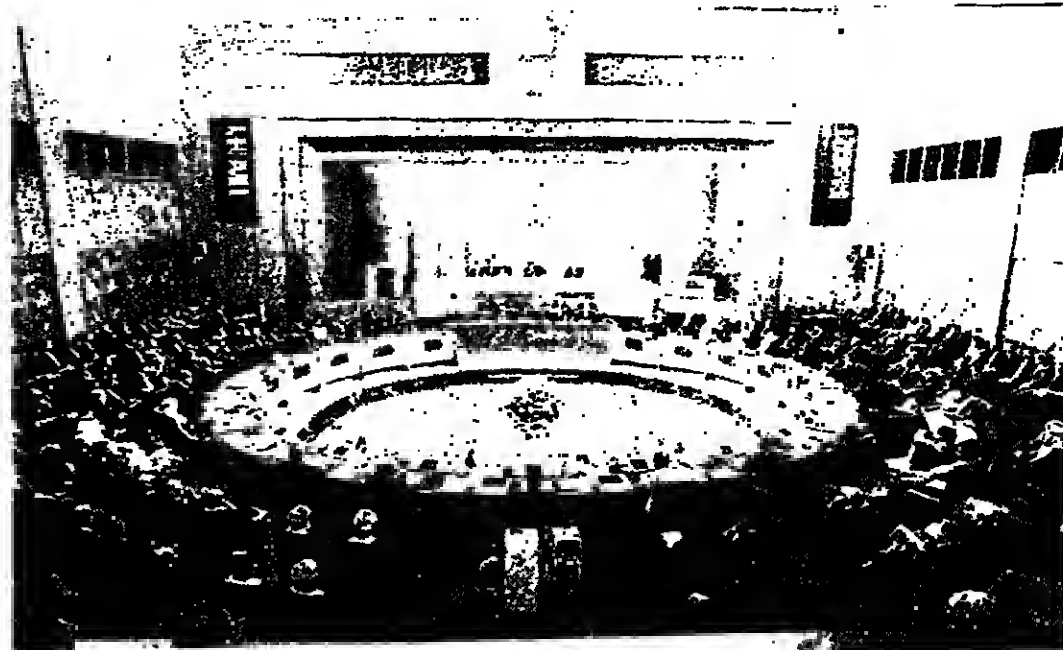
ty Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Ali Shuhaimat.

Sharif Zeid, Deputy Prime Minister Thugan Hindawi, Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddine and Mr. Shuhaimat represented the government while Mr. Najdawi, Tayseer Al Zibri (JDP), Yacoub Zayyadin (communist), Lower House member Deeb Marji (Unity Party) and Ali Amer (DPPJ) represented their respective parties.

"We worked out a formula in which we may be able to iron out our differences before the appeals go to court," said Mr. Najdawi. "The government needs a clean way out of this dilemma and this will be the best way out."

Asked why he thought the

(Continued on page 5)



A general view of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo Tuesday (AFP photo)

Arabs demand U.N. sanctions on Israel; no halt to peace talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — Arab foreign ministers demanded Tuesday that the U.N. Security Council impose sanctions on Israel if it refuses to allow more than 400 expelled Palestinians to return home.

The ministers' resolution, read to reporters by Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid, also called on the Security Council to appoint an international force to protect Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"The (Arab League) resolution calls on the Security Council to take adequate measures, including application of the rules of Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter, to oblige Israel to implement Resolution 799 immediately," the statement said.

Chapter VII allows the imposi-

tion of sanctions and Resolution 799, passed on Dec. 18, orders Israel to allow the evictees to return home.

"The resolution calls on the United Nations to create an appropriate mechanism to ensure the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly by appointing an international force to protect citizens in the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands," the statement added.

The Geneva Convention regulates the treatment of people in territories captured in war.

Israel expelled the Palestinians to South Lebanon on Dec. 17, accusing them of supporting Islamic groups, which killed Israeli soldiers. Lebanon refused to let them in and they have been camping on an icy hillside with little food.

Dr. Abdul Meguid said the

ministers asked the Security Council to act quickly to provide necessary relief to the evictees through Israeli lines and not through Lebanon.

He said the resolution, agreed unanimously by the 21 envoys, was to be conveyed to the U.N. later Tuesday.

"It is not acceptable at all that 415 men he punished collectively for a crime they did not commit and without any judicial procedures," Mr. Abdul Meguid said.

Mr. Abdul Meguid called on the Security Council "not to have a double standard in dealing with the tragedy" and to act with the same firmness as it had on other issues.

"There are rules that are be (Continued on page 5)

No U.S. promise to veto sanctions

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Monday it hoped to avoid a U.N. resolution to impose sanctions against Israel for its expulsion of 415 Palestinians, but declined to say it would veto such a resolution.

"It is our strong desire to avoid having the United Nations Security Council face a Chapter VII sanctions issue on this subject," said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

"We believe that any further action now by the Security Council would be premature until the secretary-general has exhausted his efforts," he said.

Asked what Washington would do if such a resolution were tabled, he would not answer, but merely repeated his statement.

Israel's ambassador in Washington, Zalman Shoval, said Saturday he had received assurances that the United States would veto any resolution to impose sanctions.

"I would like to say quite clearly that we have been assured by the State Department at a very high level ... that in no case will the U.S. allow the Security Council to adopt a resolution which could lead to sanctions against Israel," Mr. Shoval told Israel Radio.

But officials who asked not to be identified said no such commitment had been given. In fact, they said, when Israel's U.N. ambassador, Gad Yacobi, met his U.S. counterpart, Edward Perkins, the American side was careful not to say what the United States would do if such a resolution came to a vote.

The United States supported a Security Council resolution on Dec. 18 condemning the expulsions and urging their reversal. But a subsequent resolution containing sanctions would be a painful dilemma, especially if it were to arise just after President-elect Bill Clinton takes office on Jan. 20.

Israel has been the subject of U.N. condemnation scores of times. But it has never been the target of sanctions imposed by the world body.

Lebanese army blocks evictees' smuggling route

MARJ AL ZOHOOR (AP) — The Lebanese army Tuesday blocked the main smuggling route of more than 400 Palestinian expellees stranded in southeast Lebanon in an apparent attempt to pressure Israel to take them back.

An army official in Beirut said Lebanese patrols along the hills overlooking the evictees' makeshift tent camp had been stepped up "to prevent supplies from reaching the camp through Lebanese territory."

The official, who insisted on anonymity, said the patrols would operate on a permanent basis.

The Palestinians have been using a dirty road between the camp and the village of Libbaya, 10 kilometres to the south, to smuggle food and medical supplies since the Lebanese barred international aid from reaching the camp.

The government, which has refused to accept the evictees, has said that Palestinians were

Israel's responsibility. Israel, which expelled the men Dec. 17, refuses to take them back and has also blocked aid shipments.

A spokesman for the evictees, Aziz Dweik, said about 55 Lebanese soldiers, deployed before dawn on the hills overlooking the dirty road, prevented a group of deportees from reaching Libbaya.

"The Lebanese army blockade was a surprise. No supplies can reach the camp as of today, which will worsen our plight in this freezing weather," Mr. Dweik said.

Libbaya was the closest accessible village to the evictees.

The village is controlled by Hizbollah, (Party of God), Iran's standard-bearer among Lebanon's 1.2 million-strong Shiite Muslim community. The party sympathises with the evictees, but made no move to prevent the army blockade.

Weather tears crippled tanker into 3 pieces

SUMBURGH, Shetland Islands (Agencies) — Savage weather has torn the tanker Braer into at least three pieces, apparently spilling most of the oil that remained aboard, officials said Tuesday.

"It is obvious most of the oil has now gone. There is a possibility there will be some still on board but we are no longer talking about thousands of tonnes — just hundreds," Geert Koffman of the Dutch salvage firm Smit Tak told reporters.

"It may be trapped in small compartments but that is all. However, we will still continue the operation as long as there is a possibility that oil is inside."

Island officials said a night of ferocious weather, the worst of the winter, had broken the grounded tanker.

Salvage operators had hoped the tanker would survive the hurricanes and snowstorms of the last few days, so they could contain oil damage to a rugged shoreline, rich with marine life and sea birds. But the ship gave

way before a salvage operation could even begin.

"She is a total loss. That is for sure," Mr. Koffman told a news conference in the Shetland of Sumburgh.

George Sutherland, director of Shetland marine operations, said the ship's stern had separated from the rest and rolled towards the cliffs.

"I feel very sad and disappointed; no-one could feel anything else but sadness and dismay," he said. But in the light of the weather conditions it has been exposed to, it is very unsurprising.

Dawn revealed that toll of hurricane-strength winds and crashing waves on the Liberian-registered ship, which grounded on the southern tip of the Scottish islands a week ago after losing power during a routine voyage from Norway to Canada.

Broken and listing, its bow was up in the air and its middle section which has held most of

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinians see expulsions as painful history reenacted

By G.G. Labelle
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — For Palestinians, Israel's latest rejection of U.N. pleas to take back the 415 men expelled to Lebanon reawakens painful emotions dating to the creation of the Jewish state in 1948.

After hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were driven from their homes as Israel came into being, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 194 urging return of the refugees at "the earliest practical date."

Israel refused. Forty years later, it is again ignoring a United Nations treaty to take back Palestinians.

Sari Nusseibeh, an adviser to Palestinian peace negotiators, said this painful history is why delegates to the U.S.-backed talks are refusing to return to the table.

"I find it extremely hard for the Palestinian delegation to compromise on this issue," he said. "This measure ... ripped open a very deep wound that every Palestinian carries with him."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin also was reacting to Israeli emotions in urging the

expulsions. He defended his decision this week as a second U.N. envoy pressed Israel to comply with the Security Council's demand to take back the evictees.

At the time the 415 men were expelled in mid-December, Israelis were outraged at the killings of six troops. Israel accused the evictees of being supporters of Muslim groups blamed for the slayings.

Israel may have miscalculated the Palestinians' reaction, too. Logic might say that the Palestinian peace negotiators would accept, or even applaud, expelling hardliners from the fundamentalist Hamas movement.

Hamas is the chief rival of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the occupied territories and is desperately fighting the peace process that the PLO supports.

But logic does not always apply in the Middle East. The Palestinians and other Arab delegates immediately pulled out of the Washington peace talks, and protests erupted in the occupied territories.

Faisal Husseini, who as chief adviser to the negotiators has received death threats from hardline Palestinians, said that

Hamas was part of Palestinian national unity and was fighting the same "ruthless enemy."

Dr. Nusseibeh said the expulsions unleashed "a Pandora's box of fears. I've heard people saying this is only a continuation of Israeli policy ... this is going to be a step towards further transfers."

It did not help that Mr. Rabin was the chief force behind the expulsions. Palestinians had warned to his promises to speed up peace talks but distrusted him for his role in trying to quell their five-year uprising, and in expelling Palestinians in 1948.

As a young officer, Mr. Rabin oversaw the largest single expulsions of Arabs in 1948, driving about 50,000 men, women and children out of the Arab towns of Lydda and Ramle into what is now the occupied West Bank.

During the forced march from Lydda in the heat of July 1948, some old people and children died from lack of water. The people of Ramle, seeing their neighbours suffering, agreed to go peacefully if given buses.

Mr. Rabin called the action a military necessity — removing a hostile population — in a section deleted from his 1979



An elderly Palestinian expellee dries his clothes in over 400 other Palestinians expelled by Israel on front of his tent in South Lebanon, where he and Dec. 17 are stranded (AFP photo)

memoirs by Israeli censors but later printed by the New York Times.

In his account, Mr. Rabin recalled the march from Lydda. "There was no way to avoid the use of force and warning shots in order to make the inhabitants march to the point where they met up with the Arab Legion," he wrote. The idea, Mr. Rabin wrote, was to force the Jordanian

army to care for the refugees — "shouldering logistic difficulties which would burden its fighting capacity, making things easier for us."

It is not hard to see how Palestinians can make a comparison with today's expulsions of 415 men — some from 1948 refugee families — and Israel's attitude that, once over the border, they were Lebanon's responsibility.

Dr. Nusseibeh said the Palestinians simply see history repeating itself in the latest expulsions and the failed U.N. efforts to reverse them.

"As far as Palestinians are concerned ... the pain in their collective memory is the whole business of being made homeless, being made refugees," he said. "It's a pain I don't really think anyone but the Palestinians understands."

Afghan rivals agree to temporary truce

KABUL (R) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government and the radical Hezb-e-Islami party have agreed to a temporary truce, sources in a peace mission set up last week said.

But no formal statement from either side was available.

The Hezb had threatened Sunday to close down Kabul's airport, saying it would shoot down planes using the airport or nearby Bagram air base if the government failed to release imprisoned Hezb members by Monday evening.

The peace mission which includes representatives of several Mujahadeen groups is led by Shiite Muslim leader Ayatollah Mohtashi.

The sources said both sides agreed in talks with the mission to draw up lists of each other's prisoners held during intermittent fighting since last April when the Mujahadeen took power from the collapsed former communist government after 14 years of civil war.

The sides have also agreed not to fight until a proposed meeting of the leaders of all Afghan Mu-

jahadeen parties is held in Kabul, the sources said.

No date for the meeting was set. The sources said the peace mission was trying to contact the Mujahadeen leaders, some of whom are living in neighbouring Pakistan.

"We are very keen to negotiate," presidential spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad told reporters. The Afghan government Sunday announced the formation of a 205-member interim parliament chosen from more than 1,000 members of a controversial assembly that last month elected Mr. Rabbani as president for the next two years.

But the Hezb and some other parties that boycotted the Hal-o-Aqad assembly want Mr. Rabbani to hand over power to a leadership council representing nine Mujahadeen parties.

The council was cobbled together last April to oversee the Mujahadeen government.

But Mr. Morad said the demand to revive the leadership council was not legitimate and was contrary to an April accord among the Mujahadeen parties under which they had taken pow-



Burhanuddin Rabbani

er in Kabul.

Kabul remained quiet after several days of rocket attacks blamed by the government on the Hezb, which denies the charge. But no civilian flights left or arrived in Kabul ostensibly because of the Hezb threat.

The Hezb, led by hardline Mujahadeen leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, had earlier told the Kabul government that an unspecified number of its members imprisoned from April 24 till now must be freed by Sunday evening.

But it extended the deadline to Monday evening after the peace mission carried proposals from Mr. Rabbani to Mr. Hekmatyar on Sunday at the Hezb headquarters near Kabul.

Libya reopens land border with Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — Libya reopened its land border with Tunisia Tuesday after a three-day closure in protest at U.N. sanctions imposed over its alleged failure to cooperate in investigations of two airliner bombings.

"The traffic has resumed normally, since this morning at 6 a.m.," an official at the Tunisian border post of Ras Jadir told Reuters by telephone.

Libya, cut off from the world by an air embargo, had closed the border after saying the sanctions had been a major contributing factor in the road accident death last week of Justice and Public Order Minister Ibrahim Bakkar.

It said Mr. Bakkar would not have been travelling by road from a meeting of Arab Justice Ministers in Tunisia, if it were not for the embargo.

Libya also said the sanctions, and subsequent shortage of spare parts for its national airline, played a part in the crash on Dec. 22 of a Libyan commercial plane on an internal flight. The crash killed 157 people.

The U.N. Security Council imposed the air embargo and other sanctions on Libya last April after it refused to hand over two of its citizens accused in the West of blowing up Pan Am Flight 103 over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988.

Western governments also accuse Libya of bombing a French airliner over Niger in 1989.

Libya shares land borders with Tunisia, Egypt, Chad, Niger and Sudan, but most overland traffic is with Tunisia and Egypt.

"Temporary low profile"

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi is keeping a low profile, but it is a temporary response to internal problems and the inter-



Muammar Qadhafi

national sanctions, not a change in heart or policy, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), director Robert Gates said Monday.

"My view is he has not changed his spots at all," he told Reuters in an interview. "His pattern throughout the time he has been in power has been to go forward with some sort of subversive act or some kind of terrorist act and when the world gets upset about it he backs off for a while," he said.

Col. Qadhafi has internal problems that "have contributed to his being relatively quiet recently but I think mostly it's the actions that have been taken against him, against Libya for Pan Am 103."

"He's in the mode right now of paying a real price for the involvement of Libyans and the Libyan government in the Pan Am 103 terrorist act," he said.

Despite the low profile, Mr. Gates said Colonel Qadhafi has continued with his programme of developing weapons of mass destruction, particularly chemical weapons.

"He's still working to try and get some capability in the nuclear arena but all of the different restrictions against him have really inhibited that effort and slowed it down," he said.

"But I think that with both the chemical and biological programmes, he's got a very real programme going," he said.

Although Col. Qadhafi has taken some visible steps to close down a handful of "terrorist" training camps, "there are still other such training camps in Libya. He continues to have relationships with some of these different groups," Mr. Gates added.

Iran sees Bush years as chaotic for U.S.

NICOSIA (AP) — A lengthy and unflattering review of the United States during the Bush administration's tenure was published Tuesday by Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

It says that under President George Bush, the United States "has degenerated into the poorest, the most merciless and the most crime-prone nation in the world."

Iranian leaders routinely refer to the United States as "the great Satan," although there have been signs of efforts by Tehran to try to improve relations with the West.

IRNA's analysis comes a week before Mr. Bush is to hand over the leadership of the country to President-elect Bill Clinton.

IRNA said it based its review "mainly on news reports by international news agencies in the United States."

The Iranian agency said the United States "economically, politically and socially is ailing and chaotic and the worst since the record Wall Street crash of 1929."

It noted, for example, that "there are now 30 million Americans living below the poverty line."

It added: "Some observers say that the uprising by black Americans and American Indians in the United States last year was due mainly to the bad economy, and the fact that hungry and unemployed people were a second away from insurrection."

On the social front, it said, "1,100,000 Americans, mainly blacks, were incarcerated for alleged commission of crimes which in essence were poverty related."

IRNA said that news media, especially television, "play the leading role in legitimising violence."

It cited reports in American magazines saying that the U.S. capital city, Washington, "has ranked first in the murder rate among world capitals for the fourth consecutive year during the Bush administration."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

White House gets videotape of Bush deposition

NEW YORK (AP) — Iran-contras prosecutors have turned over to the White House videotapes of the 1988 interview President George Bush gave investigators, the New York Times reported Tuesday. Before he leaves office, Mr. Bush plans to make public the contents of the videotaped deposition along with a diary he had kept as vice president, the Times said, quoting unidentified government officials. The White House had called on independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh to release the interview after Mr. Bush pardoned former Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and five other officials who had been either charged with wrongdoing or convicted in connection with the Iran-contras affair. The White House has contended that the release of the videotape would rebut critics who charged that Mr. Bush had issued the pardons to cover up his knowledge of the Iran-contras affair. After the Christmas Eve pardons were announced, Mr. Walsh accused Mr. Bush of "misconduct" by withholding the diary until early last month. Late last month, Mr. Bush retained former Attorney General Griffin Bell to represent him in dealings with Mr. Walsh's office. Mr. Walsh said he did not learn of the diary's existence until last month despite repeated requests to the White House for documents dating from the period when Mr. Bush was vice president in the Reagan administration. Mr. Bush has said he was aware in 1985 and 1986 of U.S. arms sales to Iran but did not know they were part of a swap of weapons for the release of American hostages held in Lebanon until the Iran-contras affair became public in 1986. The Times quoted administration officials as saying they hoped to release the Bush diary and the videotaped interview before the president leaves office Jan. 20, possibly by week's end. Mary Belcher, a spokeswoman for Mr. Walsh, refused to comment on the report. White House spokeswoman Laura Parham said she had no information on it.

Iranian opposition fighter dies in Iraq

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Revolutionary Guards slipped into Iraq and killed a combatant of the Iraq-based Iranian opposition Mujahadeen Khalq, the Mujahadeen said Tuesday. Two other fighters were wounded, it said. The group said in a statement that the assault occurred Monday near the Iraqi city of Mandali, about 20 kilometres from the Iranian border. The group said that a vehicle carrying its combatants was ambushed and that the Iranian infiltrators had "fled in the dark." The group's status could not be independently confirmed, and there was no comment from Tehran. If true, the incident would be the second serious Iranian violation of the August 1988 ceasefire that ended the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. Tehran launched an air raid on Mujahadeen military bases in Iraq last April. Iran has been increasingly outspoken about the need to crush the Mujahadeen, which it has blamed for several acts of sabotage in Iraq. The Mujahadeen took responsibility for a number of explosions in Iran last year and claimed it instigated several anti-government riots. The group seeks to overthrow Iran's Islamic government by force. The Mujahadeen statement identified the slain combatant as Gholam-Hossein Kazemi, who studied engineering in the United States and recently joined the opposition group. The statement said the Mujahadeen called on the United Nations to investigate the incident.

Japanese prince to tour Middle East

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito, on what may be his last trip overseas as a bachelor, is to visit six Middle East countries this month, the palace said Tuesday. Prince Naruhito, 32, will leave Japan on Jan. 22 on a two-week tour taking in Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, said a palace spokesman. On Jan. 19, three days before Prince Naruhito's departure, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will chair an imperial household conference to formally approve the prince's engagement to Masako Owada, 29, a Harvard-educated career diplomat. Japan's mass media, infected with "royal wedding fever," speculate that the marriage will take place in early June. During his Middle East trip, Prince Naruhito will hold talks with regional leaders and visit historical sites and oilfields, the palace spokesman said. He is to return to Japan on Feb. 4.

Algeria backs military action in ex-Yugoslavia

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria is seeking U.N. Security Council action, including military intervention, "to end the genocide of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina," government spokesman Messaoud Ait Chahal said Monday. In a briefing to local journalists, carried by the official news agency APS, Mr. Chahal said: "Algeria is asking the United Nations Security Council to take all measures, including military, to force an end to the genocide..." He denounced "the Nazi methods of ethnic purification used by the Serb aggressors" and added: "Surgical measures must be taken to stop this massacre." Algeria was the first country early in 1992 to ask for U.N. intervention, he said, regretting that the Security Council reaction had not been firm enough. Mr. Chahal's statement was the second by Algeria on the crisis in former Yugoslavia in two days. On Saturday, the Foreign Ministry called for "resolute action" against what it termed crimes against humanity committed by the Serbs.

EAU urges African seriousness over wars

ALGIERS (R) — African countries must give top priority to finding ways of avoiding conflicts and to peacekeeping on the continent, the secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) said Monday. "The OAU has not been able to respond as effectively as it should on this question of conflicts ... and Africa has to be to more serious than has hitherto been the case," the OAU's Salim Ahmed Salim told a press conference. Mr. Salim, who arrived Sunday, met Algerian leader Ali Kafi and Prime Minister Belaid Abdul Salam Monday. "The question of peacekeeping, conflict-resolution in our continent must assume a top agenda of the OAU," Mr. Salim said. "It must require resources." He said almost two-thirds of the OAU's member nations had not fully honoured their financial commitments to the organisation, and this had limited its ability to prevent and resolve conflicts. On Tuesday Mr. Salim was to visit the Western Sahara. He said Africa had a vested interest in avoiding renewed fighting in the area, but he acknowledged he was not going with new ideas.

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	Varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Saved by the Bell
21:00	Spotlight
21:30	James Randy
22:00	News in English
22:20	Echoes in the Darkness

PRAYER TIMES

06:10	Fajr
06:12	Dhuhr (Sunrise)
14:32	Dhuhr
14:32	Asr
16:56	Maghreb
18:17	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfish, Tel. 810740
 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
 St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
 Teresian Church Tel. 623646
 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
 Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
 Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
 St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
 Amman International Church Tel. 685326
 Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811225

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932
 Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight rise in temperatures will take place and some clouds will appear at various altitudes. Winds will be north-westerly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 0/8
 Aqaba 7/16
 Dera'a -2/10
 Jordan Valley 5/17

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ratch Zaitoun	888685
Dr. Nidal Al Dahhah	827195
Dr. Walid Kalawani	620441
Dr. Wael Kharrat	615648
First pharmacy	619192
Fordons pharmacy	776336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairoh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	640943
Yacoub pharmacy	637660
Shamsi pharmacy	623672
Nairoh pharmacy	847632

IRBID:

Dr. Nabeel Abu Ala	278478
Al Oudh pharmacy	(-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Musa Odoh	982029
Khalifah pharmacy	983417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	391228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Water and Sewerage	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre	81381302
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	6428116
Al-Khazn Maternity, J. Amn.	6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Matnas, J. Amman	636140
Falastine, Shmouk	6647104
Shmouk Hospital	660131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Munasher Hospital	6672279
The Islamic, Abdali	66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajir	7710103
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah	77511126
Army, Marka	89161115
Queen Alia Hospital	60234050
Arual Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	097983323

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)533005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:00	Jeddah (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:00	Madrid (RJ)
06:30	Rome (RJ)
08:15	Berlin, London (RJ)
10:15	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:15	Beirut (RJ)
11:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
19:30	Cairo (RJ)
19:45	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
20:00	Riyadh (RJ)
20:15	New Delhi (RJ)
20:45	Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00	Dubai (AZ)
06:30	Karachi (PZ)
07:30	Cairo (MS)
10:30	Jeddah (SU)
10:30	Sana'a (SU)
12:00	Damascus (PZ)
18:00	Paris, Damascus (AF)
18:30	Vienna, Larnaca (OS)
19:30	Beirut (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upstower price in lbs per kg.

Apple	700/450
Banana	700/700
Banana (Mukammara)	640/640
Beans	350/300
Cabbage	120/80
Carrots	250/200
Cauliflowers	150/100
Cucumbers (large)	300/250
Cucumbers (small)	650/500
Eggplant	240/160
Garlic	600/450
Grapfruit	200/150
Lemon	240/200
Marrow (large)	250/200
Marrow (small)	500/350
Onion (dry)	280/220
Onion (green)	280/220
Orange	280/220
Pepper (hot)	240/180
Pepper (sweet)	180/120
Potato	350/220
Spinach	380/220
Spinaich	240/180
Mint	80
Green Olive	450/350

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Abdull Telephone Repairs	66

Senate passes draft law on CDD Martyrs' Fund after heated debate

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Tuesday approved four draft laws referred to it by the Lower House, with the Civil Defence Department (CDD) Martyrs' Fund law causing a heated debate among the Senators.

The Senate supported the Lower House of Parliament's amendments to the law, which stipulated that the fund's money be invested in accordance with Islamic laws.

Senator Hamad Al Farhan proposed that the fund's money be deposited in a special account at the Central Bank and be invested only in accordance with the provisions of the law.

"I propose that the council find a logical, reasonable solution that would protect the dignity of (our) intellect and accept to amend the article to make it: 'The Fund's reserves would be deposited at the Central Bank... in a special

account, and shall not be used except in cases stated by the law," said Senator Hamad Al Farhan.

Former Prime Minister and Senator Ahmad Obaidat said that the issue was either to invest the fund's money in Islamic banks in a way agreeable to Islamic Sharia or to release them.

"This proposal could have been made in a simple way, but (to mention) respecting intellect and other things, I hope Mr. Hamad will reverse his way of addressing us," Mr. Obaidat said.

Senator Ishaq Al Farhan supported the Lower House's version of the law, and called for investing the fund's money in a way that conform to Islamic teachings.

Then the Senate approved the controversial article and the law as a whole as referred to it by the Lower House.

The Upper House, which was meeting under its acting speaker Senator Bahjat Al Talhoumi and in the presence of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, referred the general budget draft law to its Financial Committee. The draft law was passed by the Lower House after being endorsed by a majority of 58 deputies out of 69 who attended the debate.

The Senate also discussed its Judiciary Committee's decision on the Sahab and Ruseifa municipalities draft laws. According to the provisions of the two draft laws, two civil courts will be created in Sahab and Ruseifa.

The Senate approved the two laws and recommended that the government draft a unified law for all municipal courts in the Kingdom.

It also approved an economic and technical cooperation agreement signed between the governments of Jordan and China.

Sboul hails success of Arab interior ministers meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Interior Minister Jawdat Sboul Monday evening returned from an Arab ministerial meeting in Tunis and described the deliberations as significant, "reflecting the common Arab understanding of the critical circumstances facing the Arab Nation."

The final statement issued at the end of the two-day meeting

by 16 Arab ministers of interior "reflects Arab countries' concern for pursuing collective Arab action to ensure pan-Arab security and enhance stability," the minister said in a statement upon his return to Amman.

Mr. Sboul said the meeting elected Brigadier Nonreddin Kheir, assistant Public Security Department (PSD) director in

Jordan to serve as director of the Arab Bureau for Narcotics. The ministers also approved of the creation of a bureau for information affairs concerning security matters to be headquartered in Cairo. The bureau would be preparing studies and conducting research work related to pan-Arab security matters, especially in the field of countering narcotics.

Cabinet endorses ACC loan, selling of debts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday endorsed a loan agreement under which the Social Security Corporation (SSC) will grant the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) a loan of JD 5 million. The loan will be repaid over a period of 10 years with a three-year grace period. Under the agreement, both the government and the ACC will pay the interests on the loan equally.

At the Cabinet's weekly session, chaired by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker the Cabinet also agreed to sell Jordan's debt to the International Gulf Bank for 38 per cent of its value and 50 per cent of the interests, as agreed during the London Club negotiations. Jordan's total debts to the Gulf Bank amount to \$61 million, and the

total interest is \$8.3 million. The Cabinet also approved the formation of Jordan's delegation to the 38th session of the Executive Committee and the 11th Conference of the Afro-Asian Conference for Rural Advancement which will be held in Malaysia from 4 to 12 February.

Major celebrations to be held at Al al Beit University Millions of saplings to be planted on Arbor day

AMMAN (Petra) — Arbor Day celebrations in Jordan will be held Thursday, Jan. 14 in various parts of the country, but the main ceremony will be held under Royal Patronage at the site of Al al Beit University being established in the governorate of Mafraq.

An official statement by the Ministry of Agriculture which is sponsoring the ceremonies around the country, said that prominent Jordanian personalities and representatives of various public and private institutions will take part in planting trees on 100 dunums of land in and around the new university site.

The statement said that the Al al Beit University was chosen as the site for the main celebration this year to draw public attention to the need for combating desertification in the badia region of the Kingdom.

The director of the ministry's Department of Range and Afforestation Azzam Al Muheisen said that his department was distributing three million saplings of various types of trees to individuals and institutions to be planted in home gardens, public gardens and in areas to serve as wind breaks.

Mr. Muheisen said three million saplings of forest and hush trees will be planted by the ministry's departments under its own afforestation programmes and wildlife reserves and along roads and streets.

The department, he said, plants some 30,000 dunums with



Thousands of citizens from various parts of the country are expected to participate in Arbor Day celebration (file photo)

trees annually plus 20,000 dunums of shrubs in pasture land and along 100 kilometre length of roads.

Mr. Muheisen said that at the beginning of 1992, the ministry endorsed a national strategy on afforestation which is being implemented with the help of local organisations.

Under the plan, he said, the Ministry of Agriculture will plant trees in areas located in the governorates of Amman, Balqa and Irbid as one initial stage. Out of

the 100 institutions and companies approached to participate in this project, he said, 10 have already responded favourably, and have embarked on measures to help carry out the scheme.

Mr. Muheisen said the plan entails planting trees on 150,000 dunums of state and private-owned land by these institutions while the ministry will plant another 150,000 dunums from now and until the end of the century.

Referring to measures on the

part of the department to green the country, Mr. Muheisen said that "every effort is being made towards protecting the soil through intensive planting of trees, whose numbers the department hopes to double in the foreseeable future."

He said the country was striving to stave off desertification and improve the general environment, but it is regrettable that thousands of trees continue to be lost every year through fires and environmental pollution.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives congratulation from Iraqi president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a cable from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein congratulating him on his safe return home after undergoing medical checkups. President Hussein congratulated King Hussein on the good results of the medical checkups, and wished him continued good health and happiness. King Hussein also sent a cable to President of Togo congratulating him on his country's national day, and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the people of Togo further progress and prosperity.

Arabiya meets universities' delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaking of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat Tuesday discussed with a delegation from Jordanian universities issues pertaining to the establishment of a general federation for university students in Jordan, and the proposed legal and structural format of this federation. The formation of the federation will be the main subject of discussion, today (Wednesday) by the Lower House, which will debate the legal committee's decision on the proposed draft law of the federation. The House will also discuss the government replies to a number of queries made by 15 deputies about appointments in ministries, government departments and public sector.

Meeting discusses revenue stamps law

AMMAN (Petra) — Experts from the Ministry of Finance and representatives of public shareholding companies and commercial banks met Tuesday to discuss a mechanism for applying the revenue stamps law to public shareholding companies. Amman Chamber of Industry's Chairman Khaldoun Abu Hassan called for updating the law, saying that some of the terms used in it are not in use nowadays. Mr. Abu Hassan said that the imposition of revenue taxes on certificates of origin contravenes with the government's intentions to encourage exports. Director of Public Revenues at the Ministry of Finance Raef Al Alami briefed the meeting on principles of applying the revenue stamps law. He explained some of the legal provisions governing the imposition of such revenue stamps, saying that a special expert group from the ministry will visit the companies and explain all aspects related to this law.

Symposium to discuss population growth

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution will next week hold a symposium on environment and population growth. Participants in the symposium, which is organised in cooperation with the German Friedrich Naumann Foundation will discuss population growth policies, environmental dimensions of population growth and women development. Participants will also discuss health care, family planning and diseases related to population growth.

UNRWA opens new clinic

JERASH (Petra) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Tuesday inaugurated the new premises of Suf camp clinic, which was constructed at a cost of JD 130,000. The new health clinic, which replaces the old building, constructed in 1968, to cater for some 15,000 people living in the camp.

Al Koura distributes tree saplings

DEIR ABBE SAIED (Petra) — Al Koura district agriculture department started Monday distributing forest tree saplings to citizens and government institutions to plant them in certain places in the district. Department Director Zakaria Al Wadi said 39,000 saplings were prepared by the department to be planted in 2,000 dunums of land. Al Koura district will observe Arbor day next Saturday. The main celebration which will be attended by senior government officials from the district will be held near the Islamic cemetery in Deir Abee Saeed town.

Red Crescent announces nominee for executive board

AMMAN (Petra) — The executive committee of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) decided Monday to nominate JNRCS Vice-President Mohammad Al Hadid for the membership of the executive council of the international league of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. In another development, the society announced that it has presented in-kind assistance to patients receiving psychiatric treatment at Al Fuhais Mental Health Hospital. The assistance which included clothes and blankets was presented to the Jordanian Society for Psychological Rehabilitation which will distribute them to patients at the hospital.

Education committee convenes

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's Education Committee held a meeting Monday under its Chairman Deputy Abdul Hafiz Allawi. The committee debated the education temporary law no. 27 for 1989.

22 low-income citizens benefit from QAF loans in 1992

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) in the past year offered 59 loans to individuals and families totalling JD 79,000. The soft loans helped 22 persons in Maan, Mafraq, Irbid, Wadi Mousa, Karak and Madaba to start small businesses, a QAF statement said Tuesday.

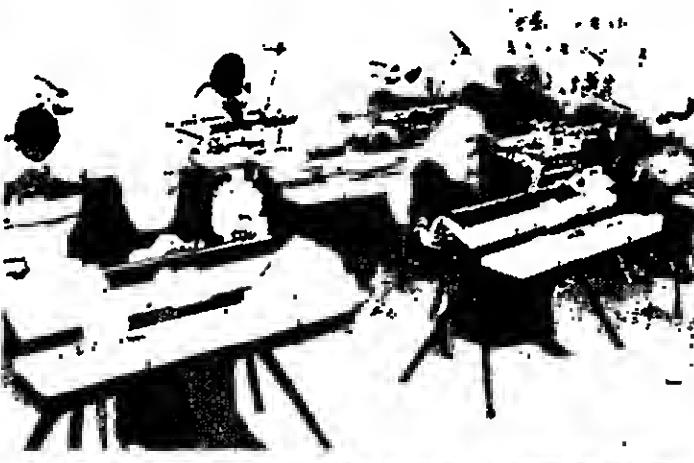
The statement said most of the beneficiaries were unemployed heads of needy families.

QAF normally provides training courses in handicrafts and skills enabling people, mostly in the rural regions, to embark on income-generating projects and offers soft loans to help them start businesses.

The statement explained that a family can borrow up to JD 2,000 repayable in instalment over a period of three years. QAF gives special emphasis to income generating projects which diversity to four different projects in several sectors:

Rug weaving

Rug weaving is a traditional handicraft in Jordan that depends on local resources for raw materials, i.e. wool from sheep raised all over Jordan. Rug weaving projects are located in three different areas around Jordan; Madaba, Karak and Ma'an. They provide employment for over 450 persons. These projects aim at reviving a dying art as well as providing income to women in low income communities. Women receive training through the facilities provided by QAF in coordination with the local social organisations. Training covers most aspects necessary for the support of women to run successful income generating projects such as management skills, marketing skills and production management.



Jordanian women receive training at a QAF industrial sewing workshop (file photo)

National ceramic centre

This project started in Amman 1989. It employs at the moment 26 young talented ceramists who were trained by experts at the unit in Amman. The project aims at maintaining the craft of pottery within the young generation keeping the Jordanian authentic look on its products, by using Jordanian and Islamic decorations. Faced with very high local demand for ceramics, QAF is now expanding the project by establishing a new plant capable of producing 30,000 pieces per month and opening new job opportunities. Another expansion will be in Taibeh, an old city in the south of Jordan that was known for years ago to be famous for producing Nabatean pottery. This unit will also provide more job opportunities for the young of Jordan.

Industrial sewing

QAF runs vocational training programmes for women through its centres all around the country. Women receive training on sewing and knitting machines for courses of three to 12 months.

Qualified and willing women who continued their training programmes join the industrial sewing workshops. They earn satisfactory income to support their families. For the time being the QAF is supporting these units by providing tenders for factories and schools.

Dairy processing

Production of white cheese and dried yoghurt from sheep milk is a traditional food processing activity practised by Jordanians in rural communities all over Jordan. QAF built on this traditional skill and started projects through its centres in Mafraq and Madaba district, utilising local sources of milk and providing job opportunities for 50 families.

In an attempt to alleviate the unemployment problem severely affecting the rural area in Jordan resulting from the Gulf crisis and the present economic situation in Jordan, QAF is trying to start more income generating project with high labour intensity.

Hammadi says Iraq will defend its sovereignty, urges Arab unity

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Voicing Iraq's determination to stand up against any United Nations attempt to use force against it, Dr. Sa'doun Hammadi, former Iraqi prime minister and advisor to President Saddam Hussein, called on the Arab people to take a unified action towards achieving unity.

"Iraq is an independent state and any action that infringes upon its sovereignty should be confronted," Dr. Hammadi said Monday in a lecture he gave at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

The sole saviour of the "state of diaspora in which the Arab countries are living is" a strong belief in Arab unity, for the achievement of which considerable efforts should be directed, he said.

"In the final analysis, victory will be our ally," said Dr. Hammadi. "It is not merely out of an optimistic perspective that I reiterate these words; it is out of conviction that the Arab people have always been sincere and

dedicated to Arab unity," Dr. Hammadi said.

He said the root cause of Arab divisions is the "partitioning strategy created by the colonialist countries," which the Arab countries have accepted believing that this is the only way that will lead to their independence from the Ottoman rule at that time.

Dr. Hammadi said the creation of individual Arab states has contributed to the emergence of fanaticism in all its forms. While these states achieved some progress, they failed in protecting their basic interests: security and development.

"The (superficially created) Arab country in the Gulf is exploiting modern technology to preserve its interests: especially in what concerns the media. While some people think that the Gulf crisis was some kind of a catastrophe to the Arab World in that it influenced Arab diplomatic relations on the surface, I see it as quite the opposite," he said.

Dr. Hammadi said the Gulf war brought to the surface many issues in the Arab world but it

mainly exposed the disparities between rich and poor countries, and the domination of some regimes over the oil resources which they use to serve their purposes and the interests of the colonialist countries. "These few people had to be reminded of their duties towards poor and deprived people, especially in the camps and in the occupied territories. The crisis has made the voice of the needy loud enough to reach all," he said.

The Gulf crisis, as seen by Dr. Hammadi, has also revealed to the Arab people the double standards of Western countries in dealing with international affairs. "This had never been so clear to the world until the the Gulf War erupted," he said.

Dr. Hammadi said a national strategy for solving the problems of the Arab Nation should aim at achieving Arab unity.

"However, (the strategy) must not be restricted to slogans (and) free of any substance, it has to be embodied in daily activities and accompanied with constant strife," he said.

Ministry to meet needs of services councils

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment is currently preparing a list of priorities to meet the needs of joint services councils formed by towns and villages in implementation of recommendations taken by heads of 58 councils who met in Irbid last weekend.

Ministry Secretary General Asem Ghosheh said that the list mainly contains the councils' needs of means to conduct maintenance and cleaning services.

A task force has already started preparing the list after conducting studies of problems facing each individual village and town, said Mr. Ghosheh.

The 58 heads of councils met under the chairmanship of Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeishat at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) to discuss outstanding problems impeding public and municipal services, including the need of staff and machinery, garbage collection trucks and other equipment.

The meeting also conducted a general review of the councils' financial positions and the rescheduling of their debts.

JPA grateful for Petra staff raise

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) Tuesday voiced deep appreciation to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker for his continued support of Jordanian journalists.

Commenting on the Council of Ministers' decision last Saturday to grant a 30 per cent pay increase to journalists employed by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, for overtime work, JPA President Saleim Qudah said the decision was "a translation of the prime minister's humanitarian stance and his appreciation of the journalists work."

"The journalists welcomed warmly this decision, which came to serve them justice as they have been demanding better wages and work conditions," said Mr. Qudah.

"The JPA had been seeking from the successive governments and information ministers to have fair and favourable response to their just demand over the past years," he said.

The government decision, Mr. Qudah said, was one of numerous steps promised to be taken by Sharif Zeid to meet the aspirations, and improve the conditions of the Jordanian journalists, said Mr. Qudah.

The Petra staff had staged a six-hour work stoppage earlier this month in support of their demand for a 30 per cent pay increase similar to treatment accorded to the staff of Radio and Television Corporation.

The Council of Ministers Saturday endorsed a recommendation by the Civil Service Commission for granting the Petra staff, who are JPA members, the 30 per cent overtime on their salaries.

University receives grant for water harvest research

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada will provide the University of Jordan (UJ) with 250,000 Canadian dollars in technical assistance to help it conduct water harvesting and other related activities in accordance with an agreement signed at the University of Jordan Tuesday.

Dr. Walid Abu Gharbieh, dean of the university's Faculty of Agriculture, told the Jordan Times that the project was part of the faculty's ongoing programme in the eastern areas on the periphery of the desert.

The project, he said, aims at developing the semi-arid regions that are threatened with desertification through the utilisation of surface water.

Under the agreement with the IDRC, experts from Canada will be coming to Jordan to help the faculty better utilise the surface water resources in a bid to provide more quantities of water for agricultural development, said Dr. Abu Gharbieh.

The Montreal-based Concordia University will provide specialists for the project, which will be implemented in cooperation with

the Aleppo-based International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), said Dr. Abu Gharbieh.

He said that the university will carry out the project at its centre in Muwaqqar, where it runs an agricultural station conducting research work and along the eastern dry lands which receive an annual average of 100 to 200 millimetres of rainfall. This is a wide area where the university students can get training, Dr. Abu Gharbieh added. He said following the end of the three-year project under this agreement Jordanian experts will carry on the project.

He said the facilities will be accessible to students preparing for their masters degree in agriculture and land development.

Furthermore, the project aims at creating what Dr. Abu Gharbieh called an integrated model of dry land being developed through water harvesting techniques with a view to increasing agricultural production and preventing soil erosion.

Dr. Abu Gharbieh expected the project to become successful and serve as a unique project of its kind in the arid regions of the world. The agreement was signed by University President Dr. Fawzi Gharabeh and an IDRC representative.

Princess Wijdan stresses diversity of Islamic art

AMMAN (Petra) — Princess Wijdan, chairperson of the Royal Society for Fine Arts, Monday delivered a lecture entitled "Islamic Art in the Twentieth Century," at the Jordan Writers Association.

Princess Wijdan stressed that Islamic art include all art works by Muslims, Christians and Jews living under Islamic rule.

She said Islamic arts do not include only constructing domes and minarets, but "they also include all architectural works, city planning, handicrafts, calligraphy, music, painting, and manufacturing of weapons."

The Islamic art, she said, had borrowed a lot of aesthetic principles and values from the Byzantines, Indians, Barbarians and other civilisations and developed

these sets of principles and values to conform to the message of Islam.

Princess Wijdan reviewed in her lecture the development of Islamic arts and art schools during various times. "The roots of the Islamic art started to appear during the Umayyad period, grew up during the Abbasid period, flourished in the Fatimid era and reached its climax in Andalusia," she said.

Princess Wijdan said she agreed with art critics and experts who said that no significant development in the Islamic art was witnessed since the fragmentation of the Islamic empire. "Imitating and repeating previous works do not mean development," she asserted.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Latin American Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Jordanian artist Salam Kanaan at Riwaq Al Balqa Gallery for fine arts, Al Fuhais City.

SEMINAR

- ★ Seminar, in Arabic, on the life of late Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir, Abu Jihad, at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6 p.m.

FILM

- ★ British film entitled "Heat and Dust" at the British Council — 7 p.m.

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Ball in U.N. court

THE DECISION by the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo on Tuesday to demand U.N. Security Council sanctions against Israel rather than announcing a suspension of peace talks with the Jewish state in retaliation for its expulsion of 415 Palestinians last month should not be seen as a split in the Arab ranks. Rather, it should be seen as the better course of action under the given situation, particularly when seen against the backdrop of indications from Washington that the U.S. might not be a willing partner anymore to Israel by wielding its mighty veto power against sanctions on the Jewish state.

Indeed, a suspension of the bilateral peace talks could come at a later stage, when all efforts fail to resolve the expulsion crisis through forcing Israel to permit the return of the expelled Palestinians to their homes in the occupied territories. In the meantime, as Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa pointed out, the option to halt multilateral talks remains open and such a turn of events would hurt Israel perhaps more than the Arab side since the Jewish state is harbouring long-term economic plans in the region despite the conspicuous Syrian and Lebanese boycott of the regional discussions.

Notwithstanding the public posture of the Palestinians demanding a suspension of the peace talks, the fact remains that any deadlock in the carefully nurtured peace process will not only hurt both sides but also boost the hands of the hardliners who reject a negotiated solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. That is an eventuality that no peace-yearning party in the Middle East can ill-afford.

All said and done, the Arab League demand for sanctions against Israel puts the ball right in the court of the Security Council. No doubt what is at stake is the very foundations of the new international role the council appears to have adopted. The question is: Can the council, which took less than a few hours Monday to issue a stern warning to Iraq to end its alleged violations of U.N. resolutions or face the consequences, afford to sidestep the will of the international community — as has been the case whenever Israel is concerned — and play blind to Israel's total refusal to abide by another council resolution?



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL MUSTOUR daily Tuesday said that the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo to discuss the question of the evictions represents a new move on the part of the Arab countries to support the Palestinians at a time when the United Nations has so far failed to serve them justice. The two U.N. envoys sent to discuss the issue with the Israelis have failed to force the Israeli government to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 as Mr. Rabin has adamantly rejected all demands for the repatriation of the 400 Palestinians and has decided never to succumb to pressure from any source, said the daily. In the light of the situation, the Arab foreign ministers have no choice but to take a collective stand and decide on measures that would ensure the re-establishment of Palestinian people's rights and end Israeli arrogance, the paper called. The Arab masses are looking to the foreign ministers meeting in Cairo with hope, awaiting practical measures and expecting real solidarity among the Arabs in the face of the common challenges, said the daily. For common action to be taken, minimum level of solidarity is needed at present, especially in the face of the looming danger represented in Washington's threat to veto any resolution condemning Israel's actions or imposing sanctions on the Jewish state for defying U.N. resolutions, the paper demanded. Indeed, the paper said, the present situation resulting from Israel's intransigence places the Arab countries face to face with a serious challenge and calls for a prompt action that would be put into force immediately if the Arabs still count on the peace negotiations to reach a final settlement.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily stressed that neither the Palestinians nor any other Arab people are responsible for the atrocities committed throughout history against the Jewish people. Husni Ayesh said it is true that the Jews were persecuted throughout history, but the persecution was done at the hands of the Europeans and not the Palestinians who are not oppressed in their own country. The writer said that Europe was the source of persecution ever since its nations adopted Christianity, considering the Jews as responsible for the killing of Christ in Jerusalem. He said that it was the Nazi regime of Germany that accused the Jews of being responsible for all the crises in Europe, hence the subsequent persecution. The writer said that under no circumstance should the Palestinians be regarded as being responsible for the persecution of the Jews who are now venting for their hatred by directing their wrath against the civilian population of Palestine. The writer pointed out that the Europeans, and not the Palestinians, are responsible for injustice to the Jews and the other oppressed people of the world.

Economic Forum

Something called workers' remittances

Production is carried out by a number of agents called factors of production, which include labour, capital, land and organisation. Each factor is entitled to a portion of the resulting output, termed wages and salaries (for labour), interest and dividends (for capital), rent (for land) and profit or loss (for organisation or entrepreneurs). We call these portions "factor income."

Gross domestic product refers to goods and services produced (GDP) in a given country by factors of production residing in that country, whether national or foreign. Subtract from GDP the portions of foreign factors and add to it the portions of national factors residing abroad (net factor income) and you get gross national product (GNP).

Jordanians working abroad are one factor of production and therefore the totality of their salaries must be added to our GNP. But they spend part of their salaries on consumption, that is for buying goods and services where they work. This part represents Jordanian imports and must as such be subtracted from our GNP so that only the savings of these workers enter, in the final analysis, our GNP. These savings are what national accountants term as "remittances" and they record them as such when they

are remitted to Jordan because it is only then that they come to know about them.

If Jordanian capital (including these remittances after they are sent to Jordan) migrates to other countries for whatever reasons, including flight motives, it must not be treated as remittances when it is transferred back to Jordan, but as capital movements which include two major categories: loans and investments. A deposit kept abroad by a Jordanian is an investment which earns interest so that when it is sent back to Jordan, only that interest goes into GNP.

The correct specification and thereafter accurate estimation of workers' remittances is crucial to determine GNP and its growth rate which measures, in turn, how adequate or otherwise is the performance of the Jordanian economy, lest we should live with, and on, statistical gimmicks.

Data on remittances of Jordanian workers appears in the balance of payments tables. The 1992 figure stands at \$1,214 million (net) against \$1,108 million in 1991. These figures invite two acute remarks.

First, the 1992 figure is higher than that of 1991. The oddity here is that the exodus of Jordanians from Kuwait and other Gulf countries in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis was logically expected to greatly depress, not boost, the 1992 figure. Second, we have been told that these figures cannot be treated as part of GNP in the Jordanian context, contrary to scientific standards. In other words, here is a situation where remittances are not remittances but just a statistical nicety. We have been additionally told that only 10 per cent of these remittances are treated in Jordan as part of GNP.

The obvious conclusion is that Jordanian capital returning back home is, most likely, classified as workers' remittances. We seem to lump together very crude data and label them as remittances. This is most misleading and confusing. Worse still, is the fact that actual GNP cannot be estimated with any degree of satisfactory credibility. And this practice (the 10 per cent ration) was introduced only in late 1989 which means that heavy doubts should be cast on GNP figures and its growth rates in the preceding era.

Don't dismiss the Balkans as a sideshow

By Brian Beedham

LONDON — If there is one proposition about the war in ex-Yugoslavia that gets everybody nodding sagely, it is the proposition that the Balkans are nowadays a bit of a sideshow.

Those who urge a western intervention in the war argue that today — unlike, say, in 1914 — a fight in the Balkans will not explode into a world war, because the great powers no longer glare at each other across this corner of Europe. The anti-interventionists say that, for exactly the same reason, Europe and America do not need to worry if Serbs beat up Croats and Muslims in this now obscure tangle of hills and rivers.

The sage nodding is premature. The present relative unimportance of the Balkans may be only temporary. The region could once again become a cockpit of great-power rivalries; and it is all the likelier to do so if Europe and America continue to mishandle the horrors of ex-Yugoslavia.

The Balkans matter whenever Europe faces a rival power to its southeast, and/or a rival power to its northeast, and when their conflicting interests collide in this ill-placed part of the map. They have been so colliding for large stretches of recorded history.

In Roman and Byzantine times the power to the southeast was Persia; later it was the Arabs, and then the Ottoman empire. The power to the northeast was once Ostrogoths and Avars; for the past few centuries — until only a couple of years ago — it was Russia. For much of this time the Balkans were where Old Europe and these two powers overlapped. That made the Balkans a frontier country.

If names in today's news ring distant bells, it is because Nis was once Naissus, site of a Roman victory over the Ostrogoths (and birthplace of the man who made Rome Christian, and created Constantinople); and because Jajce in Bosnia, seized by the Serbs a couple of months ago, was captured by the Turks in 1438; and because the River Sava was once the Habsburg-Ottoman frontier; and so on.

It was only the other day, as it were, that this power-triangle ceased to brood over the Balkans. Since the Ottoman empire collapsed in 1918 there has been no great power to Europe's southeast. Since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 there has been no great power to the northeast.

But it is foolish to assume that this suspension of the forces which made the Balkans matter will prove permanent. A new power triangle is in the making, and it is not a comfortable one.

A new power to Europe's southeast is gradually emerging out of the confused, angry fragments of the Muslim World. The western part of the Muslim World — the region between Iran and Algeria — has oil wealth. It has intelligent people. It has arms including missiles with chemical warheads and, potentially, nuclear ones, too. It has not yet found an issue to unite around, or the man to do the uniting; but sooner or later it will find both.

If things go badly, the uniting issue will be anti-western resentment. The way things are going in ex-Yugoslavia at the moment, you can foresee one powerful component of that resentment.

In Bosnia and Kosovo, the world's Muslims watch fellow Muslims being brutalised by non-Muslims — and the West doing nothing to stop it. If the West continues to do nothing, the Muslim countries will send more weapons to their coreligionists in ex-Yugoslavia. They may also send fighting men. In that case, a new Muslim power would in effect already have set foot inside Europe. Even if things do not go that far, Bosnia and Kosovo will

be added to the list of bitternesses that could one day produce a Muslim explosion against the West.

There will also before long be a new power to the northeast. It will be, in one political shape or another, a Russia that has returned to claim its place in the world. Russia is huge in territory, in human numbers and in the raw materials of wealth. It will one day get itself organised again. Then, however it runs its politics and its economies, it will pursue Russian interests, just as France pursues French interests and Britain pursues British ones.

One of those Russian interests will be to claim the leadership of what most Russians see as "the Slav family." There is nothing improper in this. Most Germans see a special relationship between themselves and the other countries of the Germanic language area. Most Britons like to think of their special attachment to America.

"The Balkans matter whenever Europe faces a rival power to its southeast, and/or a rival power to its northeast, and when their conflicting interests collide in this ill-placed part of the map. They have been so colliding for large stretches of recorded history."

The trouble is that the Slav family includes the Serbs — the chief cause of the present Balkan disaster. And already voices in Moscow are saying that Russia's true loyalty should be Serbia, not to some woolly international attempt to protect Bosnian Muslims.

This looming re-emergence of the Balkans triangle makes it nonsense to say that the West need not bother about what happens in ex-Yugoslavia. Of course, a western policy designed to check Serbian expansion will anger the Serbs, and it will irritate the pan-Slav faction in Russia. But better to pay that price now, while Russia is still weak and hesitant, than to pay the price of letting Serbian expansion go unchecked.

Letting it go unchecked means encouraging the pan-Slavists in Russia to believe that expansionism works, which is a lesson they will remember when Russia has regained its strength. That nourishes the wrong sort of future Islam.

Letting Serbia expansion go unchecked also means telling the Islamic World that the West will do nothing to save the Balkan Muslims, apart from sending them occasional convoys of food and piously calling for peace, please. That increases the prospect of a Muslim intervention, and it nourishes the wrong sort of future Islam.

Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic, say the turn-your-back people, is not Nazi Germany's Adolf Hitler. Correct. The reason for saying that Mr. Milosevic should be stopped is not that, unstoppped, he will proceed to conquer the rest of Europe. He is a purely local villain. The real reason is that a victory for Serbian expansion will make it harder for Old Europe to live in peace with both of the future great powers to its east — International Herald Tribune.

"People who are citizens of an occupied country have the right to fight for their freedom."

(Margaret Thatcher)

Haunting images

The following is a letter addressed to British Prime Minister John Major by a British citizen at the end of December:

Until a few days ago I was visiting one of the Arab countries. While there, I noticed on television that you were welcoming to the U.K. the current prime minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin.

I am sure you must be aware that most of the Israeli government leaders were formally members of terrorist organisations: The Irgun Zvai Leumi, The Stern Gang and the Haganah, who were responsible for the killing in cold blood, of many British servicemen.

It was in the course of the showing of the Israeli film "Pillars of Fire", on Nov. 14, 1986, that the former prime minister of Israel, Menachem Begin, admitted that he, along with other members of the Stern Gang, including Rabin, had placed the bombs which destroyed the King David Hotel on July 22, 1946, when 91 British servicemen were killed.

It was also recently admitted by Major General Moshe Bar-Kochbar (Israeli army) that terrorist organisations Irgun, Stern Gang and Haganah were integrated into and even formed the backbone of the Israeli army when it was first set up in 1948.

On the basis of that information, no one should be surprised that there exists such contempt for Palestinian human life, demonstrated daily by the Israeli army and the Shin Bet.

On the very day you were shaking the hand of Yitzhak Rabin, three teenage boys, no more than children, were shot dead by the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip.

It was, of course, Yitzhak Rabin who ordered the "Iron Fist Policy" at the commencement of the intifada, and I clearly remember him defending the shooting of four schoolchildren on Dec. 17, 1988. Let me quote him: "The killings are part of my government's policy; it was necessary, the flare-ups will be kept in check with an iron fist policy."

We seem to talk a lot about ethnic cleansing these days, but as far as the postwar era is concerned, this policy originated in the land which had been home to the Palestinians (who just happen to be the descendants of the Canaanites) for over two thousand years. In fact, it was Joseph Weitz who, as early as 1940, said with some arrogance before the setting up of the state of Israel in 1948:

"Among ourselves, it must be clear that there is no place in the country for both peoples together...with the Arabs, we shall not achieve our aim of being an independent people in this country. The only solution is Eretz-Israel, without Arabs...and there is no other way but to transfer the Arabs from here to the neighbouring countries. Transfer all of them, not one tribe or one village should remain."

I have spent many years in the Arab World (my first visit was in 1952 in fact) and even after all these years, I am continually reminded, even by teenagers, of Britain's responsibility for the partition of the Palestinian homeland.

It is very difficult to assess what the Gulf war achieved, except perhaps to create another "Palestinian situation" for the unfortunate Kurds. If the object was to topple Saddam Hussein, then that has clearly failed because, as I move around the Arab World, it is now quite clear that he is looked upon as some sort of martyr who had the courage to stand up against America and Israel; but there is the other side of this coin, as far as Britain is concerned.

I realised early in my experience of the Muslim/Arab World, their mentality is such that they do not forgive nor forget very easily, and I firmly believe the high profile which Britain assumed in the Gulf war has done irreparable damage to the long-term interests of our country.

Our relationship with a number of Arab states is at a pretty low ebb, and I am already seeing countries like China, and even some of the former Soviet states, setting their sights on the market chances, where once Britain was unopposed.

But let me come back to Israel. I am sure you must know that it was Moshe Dayan which trained the dreaded secret police, the Securitate of Romania, the hit squads of the drug barons of Colombia and the evil men who kept Papa Doc of Haiti in power for many years. I could extend this list to other states, but space does not permit.

You will be aware of course that the United Nations Human Rights Commission ruled on Feb. 10, 1989, that Israel was guilty of war crimes in the occupied territories, and I think we should be most circumspect in talking about war crimes in Iraq.

I have visited Israel and in the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank I have seen with my own eyes the atrocities of which Israel is guilty. I have taken statements from mothers who have seen their children shot dead in front of them, and wives who have witnessed their husband, or sometimes the only breadwinner of the family, beaten to death before their eyes.

I have sat on the beds of brain-damaged little children, beaten by club-swinging Israeli soldiers who I can only describe as thugs. There were also children, victims of explosive bullets, their limbs and little bodies blown apart and who, like the brain-damaged children, will never recover.

I am sure that to the end of my days I shall be haunted by the sight and disfigurement of the young man of 23 who, for no particular reason, whilst walking home from work, was thrown four times face down on a pile of burning rubber tyres by several Israeli soldiers. He was married with two little children. Of course the Israelis are not over-generous with medical supplies in the occupied territories and, most of all, pain-killing drugs are in short supply. That young man died a terrible death, but I am glad I was there to hold his hand as he passed away. It is an experience that I shall never forget, neither will I ever forgive those who were responsible.

I can never understand why, when Israel invaded Lebanon, when it used fragmentation bombs, vacuum bombs, cluster bombs, phosphorous bombs and even bombs resembling toys which, when picked up by the little children, exploded immediately resulting in death or terrible mutilation, Britain remained silent.

Like the toxic gases, which have been used both in Lebanon and the occupied territories by Israel, were of American origin. I know, because I researched the subject.

All these weapons of war are prohibited under the Geneva Convention and the relative protocols. As I believe were the Multi Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) which were used by the Americans in the Gulf war.

I have to say that I found it somewhat surprising that Clifford Longley, writing in the Daily Telegraph on Dec. 4, alleged that anti-semitism had its origin in this country in the twelfth century.

LETTERS

I am always mindful of the thousands of Palestinians held in Israeli prisons and prison camps, subjected to beatings, torture, electric shock treatment and other forms of inhumanities which I would be reluctant to describe to you in detail. It is admitted by Israel that they hold hundreds, it may even be thousands of people, without trial or charges and they might justly be called hostages. Many of them have been held for years and may never live to reveal the conditions under which they have been held nor the treatment they have endured.

On June 20, 1986, it was disclosed by Israel that 72 Jewish prisoners being held in Beersheba prison in south Israel had slashed their wrists in protest at the conditions in the prison. You can imagine the conditions under which the thousands of Palestinians are being held.

Currently, I am watching very closely the situation of the 415 Palestinians being expelled from their homeland by the Israelis. Surely, prime minister, these tragic Palestinians are in the image of the French Maquis, the Belgian, Dutch, Norwegian and Danish underground elements who fought alongside the allies in World War II for the cause of freedom; and is that not the basis of all human rights?

May I remind you of something that the former prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, said in the House of Commons on Feb. 18, 1986? Speaking on her return from Poland, she said this:

"People who are citizens of an occupied country have the right to fight for their freedom."

Margaret Thatcher was conceding the legality of the action of the Palestinians in attacking the Israeli soldiers in the occupied territories.

Again speaking on her visit to Poland, on Nov. 14, 1988, she said "I feel the people's love of liberty and their yearning for freedom, and nothing could be more moving."

As I walked through the narrow streets of Gaza and spoke with the Palestinians in other occupied territories, I also experienced their yearning for freedom and liberty and perhaps, better than most, I knew what she meant.

I have also toured the Palestinian refugee camps in Syria and Jordan and they really do believe that one day, wise statesmanship will prevail and they will be able to return to their homeland.

Perhaps I should explain that I am in my 54th year of working with sick, handicapped and underprivileged children in a voluntary capacity, involving children from many countries.

I shall be 79 next year, and I must say that I never really thought I would live to see so much tragedy and suffering in the last years of my life, so much of which could have been prevented by wise leaders.

I was involved, in pre-World War II, in bringing Jewish children out of Hitler's Germany.

Now I am haunted by the knowledge that it may well be the children of some of those who helped to escape to the West who are committing the atrocities and the killing of the Palestinian people.

Reg Cleaver,
9 Elm View,
Ash Hill,
Aldershot Hants,
Great Britain.

Time to wake up

To the Editor:

As life progresses at a fast pace, with universal changes taking place every split of a second, we, in the Arab World still seem to be in a state of hibernation. What is most striking about our situation is that we are so mesmerised by this state that the other so-called civilised parts of the world have become our masters, and we, their puppets.

Isn't it high time we woke up? What is most saddening is that we blame the West and Israel for all that has happened and is still happening to us. Meanwhile, with us blabbering all the time, the West and Israel have been busy advancing technologically and concocting more tyrannical plans to exterminate us.

What are we doing about it? Well, we are actually keeping ourselves busy by taking the bait. The best example that comes to my mind, that depicts this situation, is the Hamas movement, and the so-called "Islamic fundamentalism", the perfect plot for self-destruction within our system.

Not only are the "masters" fully utilising our weaknesses, they are also excelling at destroying the religion of Islam; and what is most saddening is that we are helping them.

Since when is Islam synonymous with force, blood, and revolt? Islam is not a sect or a party; it is a most holy and sacred religion that ought not to be taken advantage of for group purposes.

Another good example of Arab humiliation is the "no-fly" zone in Iraq and the latest trick pulled by the U.S. and its allies, giving an ultimatum to Saddam Hussein to move the Iraqi missiles and anti-aircraft guns from around the 32nd-parallel.

Whatever happened to the terms sovereignty and independence of a state? Are no-fly zones the way to make peace? The funny thing is that the U.S. government talks about global peace explicitly, while instigating global turbulence and conflict implicitly. An ultimatum is given to Saddam Hussein to retreat at the same time as the U.N. resolution (or should I say the U.S. resolution) 799 stands pending, with no ultimatum given to Israel for retracting its decision of deporting more than 400 Palestinians from their homeland. Why? Because Israel is not one of the West's puppets. The Israelis stand together as one unbreakable entity that strongly believes in its cause, objectives and existence.

So, it is high time we learnt a lesson. It is time to pull our act together and unite to rebuild our image and our dignity. It is time to stop blaming others for our wrongdoings, and to pool our resources for creating a solid Arab World that fights back not with ignorance and force, but with wisdom and genuineness.

We can become masters for all it needs is solidarity and an adamant belief in one cause. It is time to come out of our state of "hibernation."

Niveen Abboushi,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and address, as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Moves under way to end dispute

(Continued from page 1)

government faced a dilemma, Mr. Najdawi said. "Before April 1989 people with certain political leanings enjoyed freedoms and certain others — like the left — did not. Today, in 1993, that status quo has not been changed legally."

According to Mr. Najdawi the refusal of the government to give legal status to the three left-wing parties undermined "the democratic and pluralistic society that Jordan wants to become." He said that the issue was less legal than political.

"The issue is in fact political and not legal and we hope we can work out our differences with the governmental committee which is assigned to this problem," Mr. Najdawi added.

A governmental committee which will follow up the issue of political groups facing a rejection of their legal status by the Ministry of Interior will be made up of Messrs Hindawi and Suheimat as well as Minister of Interior Jawdat Shoul, according to political party officials involved in the dialogue.

Asked if being grouped with three parties that had been denied political party status

undermined his chances of being legalised, Mr. Amer of DPPI said: "No."

"I believe that if any applicant is rejected it will be on a purely legal basis," said Mr. Amer, who is the secretary general of his organisation.

"When some of the leftist parties were being rejected I felt that there was a political bias against the left and I questioned the direction that the democratisation process was taking," said Mr. Amer.

After the initial meeting with the government delegation Mr. Amer said he "felt reassured about the intentions that directed the government's decisions."

The Ministry of Interior confirmed that the five parties still awaiting a response from the ministry had been informed of when they would receive an answer on the status of their applications.

The Unity Party, will receive a response between Feb. 5 and 11 and the Freedom Party, headed by Fawaz Zoubi, between Feb. 10 and 16. The Democratic Socialist Jordanian Party, headed by Issa Madanat and the Party of Progress and Justice, headed by Dr. Zeid Hamzeh will receive a response between March 1 and 7.

Sahaf: Iraq has U.N. approval

(Continued from page 1)

According to the minister, if UNIKOM felt that the number of Iraqis involved in the operations was too high, then "this is something else."

"If you want the number to be less than what had been or more than what it is until now, then you have to give us more time to evacuate the property," he said.

Mr. Sahaf flatly rejected a U.N. demand that the equipment already removed be returned. "They have no legal ground to ask us to do this," he said. "They cannot take the right of possession of Iraqi property. They don't have the jurisdiction."

"If there is such a decision it is really outrageous and it is illegal."

Iraqis continue to remove equipment

(Continued from page 1)

"So I can imagine that further action in this respect could be taken ... without necessary asking for a green light from the council. That is definitely a not very distant, but a very feasible possibility," Mr. Erdos added.

Mr. Bush's press secretary, Marlin Fitzwater, accused Iraq of "a clear pattern of violation" of U.N. resolutions and said it cannot continue.

Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Al Sabah told parliament on Tuesday that the emirate was prepared to repel any Iraqi military threat.

"The defence lines along our borders are capable of turning back any attack by Iraqi forces present in southern Iraq," Sheikh Ali said.

About 250 U.N. personnel with no weapons watch the barren Iraq-Kuwait borders around the clock for violations of Gulf war ceasefire agreement or any other United Nations resolutions.

The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) has 18 observation posts along the disputed 210-kilometre border. In case of violations, the observers' job is to inform the United Nations about it.

Mr. Kabbaj said the Iraqis had not asked permission to enter the demilitarised zone where the former base is located and no clearance had been given.

But he added that it was not clear if the incursion had broken Gulf war ceasefire agreements. He did not explain why Tuesday's incident may not have been a breach.

Similar incidents on Sunday and Monday were described by the United Nations as violations.

The weapons raid, days of tension over Iraq's deployment of missiles in the Western-imposed "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq and Baghdad ban on weapons inspectors using U.N. planes have put Baghdad and its foes back on collision course.

The United States and Britain said that force may be used against Baghdad to enforce compliance with U.N. resolutions.

But diplomats in the region said Iraq leader appeared confident the U.S.-led allies would not risk war to prevent it from taking Iraqi arms and other equipment from the former naval base.

At least 15 U.S. warships and up to 200 aircraft are posed in the Gulf to carry out any decision sanctioned by the U.N.

Some diplomats said the Iraqis clearly believed they had blanket permission to enter the zone at any time before a Jan. 15 deadline to remove equipment left behind after the six-week Gulf war.

But under the proper procedure the Iraqis needed to seek, and receive, clearance from UNIKOM whenever they entered the demilitarised zone to gather material, they said.

UNIKOM said the Iraqis had

been quietly entering the demilitarised zone to dismantle the warehouses since Jan. 2, a development disclosed by the observers only after Sunday's weapons raid.

The Security Council Monday accused Iraq of repeated violations of ceasefire resolutions and warned of "serious consequences that will flow from continued defiance."

The council said it would try to persuade Iraq to relent before it would consider any concrete action, adding that Iraq's pattern of behaviour had been "to take a strong stand party for home consumption and then back down."

By declaring that Iraq had violated the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire, the statement might be interpreted as justifying a resumption of military action, though this seemed unlikely, at least for now.

Russia strongly condemned its old ally Iraq for the incursions but fought shy of saying whether military action should be taken against Baghdad.

Iraq, meanwhile, said it was open to talks "to achieve peace and security which guarantees the legal rights of Iraq in sovereignty and independence."

Al Qasbiya, the official army newspaper, blamed Iraq's recent troubles on Mr. Bush, saying he had "criminal intentions" against Iraq.

The political editor of the Iraqi News Agency said in a commentary Tuesday that "Iraq did not violate the demilitarised zone and did not interfere with the work of the (U.N.) observers ... and did not make any kind of provocative act against them."

The editor also said that the only items removed were "civilian material and non-banned equipment."

Last week, Iraq moved anti-aircraft batteries that Washington and its allies said were threatening Western aircraft patrolling the "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq. But Baghdad continues to shuttle the missiles about the area, U.S. officials said Monday.

U.S. General John S. S. said Iraqi anti-aircraft missiles in the northern "no-fly" zone "were brought up to an operational status in the last few days."

U.S. Air Force Major Mike Waters, the spokesman for a Western air force based in Turkey, said there was no state of heightened alert at the Incirlik air base and the coalition planes were continuing their normal duties.

Iraq also has insisted that U.N. weapons inspectors flying into the country use Iraqi Airways planes instead of U.N. charters. That has created a stalemate stalling U.N. weapons inspection programmes in the country.

On Sunday, Iraqi workmen removed four Scud missiles and explosives that had been left behind by Iraqi forces in the Gulf war. The munitions were slated for destruction by the United Nations.

Arabs demand sanctions on Israel

(Continued from page 1)

followed and respected and the Security Council should assume its responsibilities like it did in other issues. The law must be above everybody. There should be no state below or above the law. We want an end to double standards," Dr. Abdul Meguid said.

The Arabs realise that Washington might veto any sanctions resolution but refuse to concede the point in advance. They are angry that the Security Council has used sanctions against Iraq, Libya and the states of former Yugoslavia but not against Israel.

The Arab statement did not threaten to suspend Middle East peace talks, which delegates said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had suggested.

The PLO announced Monday that Palestinians would not take part in any more talks with Israel until the evictees were allowed home.

But diplomats said Egypt and Saudi Arabia had argued that it would be premature to suspend the talks, which began in October 1991 after months of painstaking diplomacy by the United States.

Dr. Abdul Meguid said the resolution warned of "great dangers and repercussions of the Israeli expulsion on security and stability in the region and on the fragile Middle East peace process."

He said the ministers did not give the Security Council an ultimatum to act. He also refused to say what measures the Arabs would consider if the U.N. failed to force Israel to comply.

"This will come in the proper time. I am not going to prejudge any action. We are watching the situation very carefully. Let's wait and see. This is a very serious matter," he said.

The conference "warns against the grave dangers caused by this violation and by the policy of mass expulsions to regional security and stability and to the current peace process," the resolution said.

This was the closest the resolu-

tion came to either the bilateral and multilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations.

The resolution proposed stationing an international force "to provide protection for citizens in the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories."

Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's political department director who represented it at the conference, declared Monday it would be "impossible" for the Palestinian delegations to resume peace talks with Israel "so long as the evictees remain deported."

The next round of bilateral talks is scheduled for Feb. 20 in Washington. No tangible progress was achieved in eight previous rounds.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told Reuters after a meeting of Islamic states in Dakar: "The solution of the Palestinian expellees will be the assurance of the continuation of the peace talks."

Asked if this meant no more talks until the Palestinians returned home, Mr. Arafat said: "Definite."

Israeli officials declined to comment. Foreign ministry spokesman Eviatar Manor said: "We don't react to comments by Arafat. He can say whatever he wants."

Syria, which for four decades refused to contemplate direct negotiations with Israel, said that at least the bilateral talks should continue because they were in Israeli interests.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said multilateral talks on the long-term development of the Middle East were more important to Israel and could be suspended if need be.

The Syrian minister told the meeting: "If we have to suspend the negotiations, let us start by suspending the multilateral negotiations in which a number of Arab states are taking part."

"This would definitely be a bigger blow to Israel than suspending the bilateral talks. In the bilateral talks we want to get back our lands and our usurped rights. But in the multilateral talks Israel wants many things."

Weather tears oil tanker into pieces

(Continued from page 1)

The oil completely submerged. The ship's funnel swayed with the dark brown swell.

Oil from the ship has killed hundreds of sea birds and endangered seals, otters and other wildlife in one of the most important wildlife areas in Western Europe.

Officials said a total of 626 dead birds had been recovered but the death toll is likely to mount now it is clear that most of the tankers oil has gushed into the sea.

Wild weather made it difficult to chart the flow of the spill, authorities said.

Hurricane-force winds raked across Sumburgh head, rain, sleet and snow have limited visibility, and lightning during the night caused brief power surges.

Salmon farmers prayed for wind and waves to carry the oil away from their pens, many of them anchored in inlets cordoned off by the wreckage.

"We're hopeful that the weather will be with us," said Alistair Goodlad. "It's a nervous time, of course it is."

Israel proposes halting nuclear spread

(Continued from page 1)

the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv, agreed that Mr. Peres would be setting a precedent by mentioning nuclear arms specifically.

Mr. Alpher said the first sign of a change in policy emerged in October in the draft Israeli-Jordanian agenda for peace talks. It called for a Middle East free from non-conventional weapons in the context of comprehensive peace.

"What's new here is the specific mention of the nuclear dimension," Mr. Alpher told Reuters.

Israel's 14-month-old peace talks with Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians are due to resume next month but Palestinians are vowing to stay away because of Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to Lebanon.

Representatives from at least 115 nations, including Mr. Peres, will sign the U.N. convention banning the manufacture, possession or use of chemical weapons at the three-day meeting in Paris, French officials said Monday.

It will be the first global disarmament agreement to abolish an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, they said.

Several Arab countries are not expected to sign because they object to Israel's reputed nuclear weapons capability. Only Libya and Kuwait have said they will be present in Paris and neither is likely to sign.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department appealed to the Arab states to sign the treaty, saying the agreement is important in itself and should not be tied to other nuclear or biological issues.

The convention includes what French officials call a revolutionary verification system allowing for inspection on challenge anywhere, at any time by international experts to check suspicions of chemical arms manufacture or stockpiling.

Mr. Karadzic said the plan still leaves "a lot of possibilities to achieve our objectives."

Disputes remain between the Bosnian Serbs and the Muslim-led government over provincial boundaries and over the withdrawal of Serb heavy weapons from around the besieged capital Sarajevo and other strategic points.

Mr. Karadzic said he could not predict when he would sign the accords, which the mediators insist must be accepted as a package. But he said he was confident the Bosnian Serb assembly would approve Tuesday's deal.

Bosnian Serbs accept peace proposal

(Continued from page 1)

recognise "three constituent peoples" in Bosnia-Herzegovina — Serbs, Muslims and Croats — but bar provinces from making foreign policy. The planned 10 provinces would have wide autonomy.

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Mr. Cosic said he would travel to Bosnia soon, evidently to sell the accord to Bosnian Serb hardliners worried that war gains are being sacrificed.

Only the Bosnian Croats, the smallest ethnic group, have signed the peace plan.

Earlier Tuesday, the talks were on the verge of collapse after Mr. Karadzic, insisted again on a Bosnian Serb state, the main obstacle at the talks. A full meeting of all three factions in Bosnia broke up without agreement.

But, diplomatically isolated, Mr. Karadzic returned to talk with Mr. Vance and Lord Owen several hours later.

Mr. Vance said Mr. Milosevic, who joined the Geneva talks for the first time Monday, had urged Mr. Karadzic to accept the mediators' constitutional principles that keep Bosnia a sovereign state.

Somalia peace talks deadlocked

(Continued from page 1)

because he's frightened the others will form a block vote against him," said one political analyst attending the talks. He asked not to be named.

The tumultuous meeting, which began Jan. 4, was scheduled to conclude late Monday or Tuesday morning, with delegates returning to Somalia later Tuesday, a U.N. spokesman said.

According to spokesman

Farouk Mawlawi, the factions had reached a preliminary ceasefire and disarmament agreement but were unable to concur on other details, thus negating the earlier breakthrough.

There were doubts as to how faithfully a ceasefire would have been obeyed and the agreement would not have affected gangs of freelance bandits. Nevertheless, the now-defunct agreement was seen as a potentially significant move.

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Saby still leads Paris-Dakar Rally

PARIS (R) — Bruno Saby was content to protect his big lead as he drove his Mitsubishi into fifth place in the sixth African stage of the Paris-Dakar Rally Monday.

Pierre Lartigue, the only driver with a realistic chance of catching him, finished one minute 48 seconds faster in his Citroen but the gap between the two French was still an enormous one hour 36 minutes 36 seconds.

The 626-km special stage through Algeria's spectacular shifting dunes and petrified forests of the Chech Erg from Adrar to Chenachen was won by four-times Paris-Dakar winner Ari Vatanen of Finland in a Citroen but he remained more than seven hours behind the leader in seventh place.

Mitsubishi's Erwin Weber

(Germany) was second fastest and Citroen's Hubert Auriol (France) third.

Weber lost several minutes with a puncture, then stopped to help Japanese teammate Kenjiro Shinozuka, whose clutch had gone just 100 kms into the stage.

Shinozuka lost third place overall to Auriol "but I think we can get it back," said the Veteran Japanese, who managed to nurse his Mitsubishi to the finish.

Bike leader Stephane Peterhansel is also defending his position with careful riding. The French Yamaha rider was happy to let team mate Jordi Arcadons of Spain win the stage, although he finished second with 85 minutes still in hand over his closest overall rival, France's Thierry Charbonnier on a Yamaha.

Sluggish Sampras advances to 2nd round

SYDNEY (Agencies) — Top-seeded Pete Sampras nearly double-faulted his way out of the \$575,000 New South Wales Open tennis tournament Tuesday before rebounding to defeat Andrei Medvedev 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in a first-round match.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the No. 2 women's seed, shrugged off an ankle injury to beat Leila Meskhi of Georgia 4-6, 6-4, 6-0.

The Spaniard, runnerup here last year, twisted the ankle at deuce with the score 4-3 in the second set. She had it taped heavily and did not seem to be hampered seriously.

Richard Krajicek, the No. 2 men's seed, and Jennifer Capriati, the No. 4 woman, were scheduled to play their matches later at the White City Complex near downtown Sydney.

Sampras, the American ranked third in the world, double-faulted seven times in the first set in the gusty, swirling centre-court winds, including twice at break point to hand Medvedev the lead.

He again double-faulted to give Medvedev a break and a 3-2 lead in the second set before the Ukraine native dug himself a hole in the next game, committing two unforced errors and a double fault.

Sampras ran off nine of 10 games, including a stretch where he won 23 of 29 points. The only problem he had the rest of the way was a brief bloody nose that he blamed on dry conditions in his hotel room.

"I got off to a pretty slow start. I was down a set and a break before I knew it," said the 21-year-old Sampras. "I finally got it together. As the match went on, I played better and better."

He said a first-round battle against a player the caliber of Medvedev, who has risen 202 places in the last year to his

current 24th ranking, provides a good idea of how well he is hitting after taking nearly a month off.

"To get through that match is a pretty good effort," Sampras said. "It was a match I could have lost very easily."

He said he feels good going into next week's Australian Open, where injuries have knocked him out the last two years. And the possibility of taking the No. 1 ranking provides extra motivation.

"It's something I've definitely thought about," Sampras said. "I've had two pretty good smiffs at it. But I'm not going to dwell on it."

No. 8 Henrik Holm of Sweden became the second men's seed to fall, losing 6-4, 6-4 to Argentina's Alberto Mancini.

Meanwhile, Helena Sukova, the No. 6 seed who pulled out after hurting a leg in a fall during her match Monday night, announced Tuesday the injury would prevent her from competing in the Australian Open.

Bronchitis forces Agassi out of Australian Open

Bronchitis has forced Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi to withdraw from this month's Australian Open tennis tournament, the opening Grand Slam event of the year, tournament organisers said Tuesday.

Agassi, who would have been playing in his first Open here, had been suffering from a virus and bacterial infection which has developed into bronchitis, according to Tennis Australia president Geoff Pollard.

"Obviously we are disappointed, although Andre's ranking has slipped to nine, he is still an exciting player and we



Ukraine's Andrei Medvedev has improved his standing from #226 to #24

were looking forward to seeing him here," Pollard said in a statement.

The Open, to be played from January 18 to 31, has attracted the world's top five players, including number one Jim Courier who will be defending the title he won in 1992.

The women's draw is the strongest in the Open's history with 29 of the top 30 women players, including number one

and defending champion Monica Seles.

There is also a question mark over Ivan Lendl's fitness for the open after his withdrawal from this week's New South Wales Open with a nagging groin injury.

Lendl, ranked eight in the world, will practise in Melbourne later this week and then decide whether to put his name in Friday's draw, his coach Tony Roche said.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Ahli, Orthodoxi and Jallil score wins

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three basketball matches were played Tuesday as the First Division Championship resumed with Al Ahli crushing Al Abbas 119-30, the first half ending 62-91. Meanwhile Al Orthodoxi defeated Hometmen 166-58, and Al Jallil overcame Al Watani 78-69. The Jazireh-Husseini match was postponed until Jan. 18.

Spurs beat Pistons to continue two streaks

NEW YORK (R) — The San Antonio Spurs beat the Detroit Pistons 109-91 as the two National Basketball Association clubs continued to head in opposite directions. The Spurs recorded their consecutive win with the road victory and fifth in their last six games, while Detroit has dropped three in a row and four of their last five games. Dale Ellis scored 23 points to lead the Spurs, who never trailed and had six players in double figures. David Robinson contributed 18 points, 14 rebounds and four blocked shots. Antoine Carr added 17 points and 11 rebounds and Sean Elliott chipped in with 14 for the Spurs. In the only other NBA contest scheduled Monday, Larry Johnson scored 24 points as the Charlotte Hornets routed the pathetic Dallas Mavericks 132-113. Alonzo Mourning and Kendal Gill added 20 apiece for the Hornets, who have two in a row and three of their last four games. Mourning also had 10 rebounds and four blocked shots before fouling out after playing just 27 minutes. The loss was the 12th in a row for the Mavericks, winners of just two of 29 games this season. Rookie Sean Rooks led the Mavericks with 20 points and Derek Harper chipped in with 17.

Kasparov predicts short match with Short

SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL, Spain (R) — Britain's Nigel Short and Jan Timman of the Netherlands began the second game of their \$200,000 World Championship eliminator match. Short, lucky to escape with a draw in Sunday's draw in Sunday's first game, was playing with white pieces in the well-timed Ruy Lopez Opening. The winner of the 14-game series will challenge Russia's Garry Kasparov for the world championship later this year. Kasparov has forecast that Short will come through as his challenger. "My opponent will be Short and the match will be short," he said recently.

Elton John resigns as Watford director

LONDON (R) — Pop star Elton John has resigned as a director at English First Division Club Watford, effectively ending a 19-year official connection. In a letter to his successor former club chairman John said his touring commitments prevented him from giving the club the attention the job demanded. Watford rose from the Fourth Division to the first and reached the Football Association (F.A) Cup final under the leadership of John and Graham Taylor, now the England manager.

Washington wins, Adams upsets Chesnokov

AUCKLAND (AP) — Top-seeded Maliva Washington struggled to a three-set victory Tuesday, while fellow American Chuck Adams upset third-seeded Andrei Chesnokov in the first round of the \$182,500 Benson and Hedges Open tennis championship. Washington downed Spaniard Marcos Gorriz 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 after an uncomfortable first set and a half. Doubles expert Adams stunned the Russian 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (13-11) in a marathon. Washington struggled on serve and sprayed groundstrokes wide before finally finding form against Gorriz, who returned particularly well.

Hunger, sharks bring end to trans-Atlantic trip

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A trans-Atlantic canoe trip by two British brothers has ended on a Jamaican beach after growing hunger, weakness and a close call with a pack of sharks. Of Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, he and Brother Stuart, 30, were under observation, suffering from malnutrition and painful skin sores and boils. They were admitted after coming ashore at the Western Town of Manchiocanal, 68 days after setting off from Cascais, Portugal, in their specially rigged 7-metre (21-foot) canoe. The fell short of their goal — making the first canoe voyage between the European and North American mainlands. But they were happy to be in one piece.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
© 1992 Tribune Media Services Inc.

LOSE ONE, WIN TWO

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K J 9 5
♥ 4
♦ 7
♣ J 8 4 3 2

WEST
♠ Void
♥ K J 9 5
♦ J 10 8 6 2
♣ A 9 5

EAST
♠ Q 10 6
♥ Q 10 3 2
♦ K 5 4
♣ K Q 10

SOUTH
♠ A 8 7 4 3 2
♥ A 6
♦ A Q 9 3
♣ 7

The bidding: South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ 4
4 ♠ 5 ♠ Pass Pass
5 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠.

There's an old bridge maxim: The five-level belongs to the enemy. South failed to heed this warning and, thanks to brilliant defense, paid a high price.

East-West took advantage of the vulnerability to compete vigorously. Rather than get pushed to five

spades, South should simply have doubled. After the lead of the single diamond by North, accurate defense—diamond queen, club shift, ace of hearts, ace of diamonds and diamond ruff, club ruff—would have netted 300 points and North-South would still have been a 3-to-1 favorite to win the rubber.

Incidentally, that highlights another important difference between rubber bridge and duplicate. At duplicate, going down 500 to save a vulnerable game is an excellent result. At rubber bridge it is worthwhile only if both sides are vulnerable.

Declarer won the opening heart lead with the ace and, when West showed out on the lead of low spade, declarer rose with the king to take the diamond finesse. When that worked, dummy's remaining heart was discarded and, to prepare for a crossruff, declarer exited with the seven of clubs. East won and found the killing return—the queen of spades! Declarer could still ruff two of his three red-suit losers on the table, but then had to concede a trump trick and a trick in a red suit for a one-trick set.

One in 10 athletes frequent drug user — De Merode

BRUSSELS (R) — Ten per cent of all athletes frequently use drugs and out-of-competition controls were insufficient, top Olympic official Prince Alexandre de Merode, was quoted as saying Monday.

"Based on the steroid profiles there should be 10 per cent users (of drugs) in sports, regular users that is," said De Merode, chairman of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) medical commission.

De Merode, quoted in the three-monthly magazine "News Olympics" issued by the Belgian Olympic Committee, said many athletes had tried drugs occasionally but the number of regular users was decreasing.

He said the system of out-of-competition controls was imperfect, citing China as an example where such testing was believed to be largely insufficient.

"China is often cited as a country where anything goes. Perhaps that is so and are there too few controls? But the policy there can change overnight. It's just a matter of convincing the strong central authorities it should change."

"Out of competition does not mean making your athlete pee one month before the games,"

Seles, Courier keep top spots

ST PETERSBURG, Florida (R) — Top-ranked woman's tennis players, according to rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association and leading men's rankings as issued by the Association of Tennis Professionals came as follows:

1. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia)
2. Steffi Graf (Germany)
3. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
4. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)
5. Martina Navratilova (U.S.)
6. Mary Joe Fernandez (U.S.)
7. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
8. Jennifer Capriati (U.S.)
9. Jana Novotna (Slovak Republic)
10. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland)
11. Helena Sukova (Czech Republic)
12. Mary Pierce (France)
13. Anke Huber (Germany)
14. Lori McNeil (U.S.)
15. Nathalie Tauziat (France)
16. Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria)
17. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
18. Zina Garrison (U.S.)
19. Amanda Coetzer (South African)
20. Amy Frazier (U.S.)

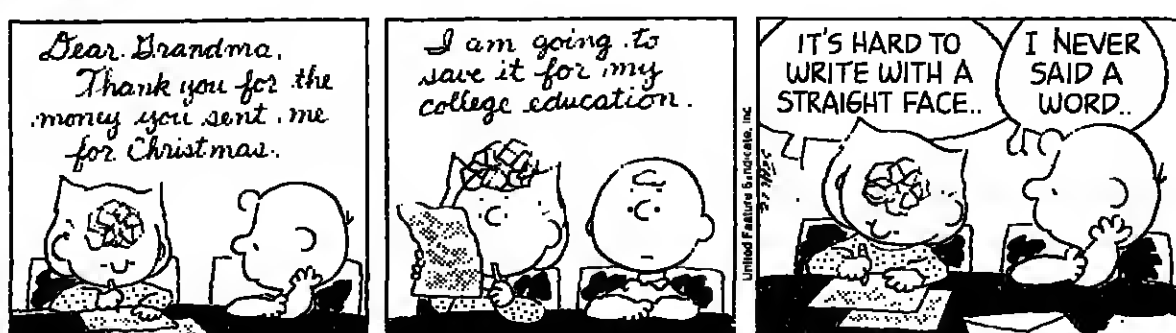
1. Jim Courier (U.S.)
2. Stefan Edberg (Sweden)
3. Pete Sampras (U.S.)
4. Boris Becker (Germany)
5. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia)
6. Michael Chang (U.S.)
7. Petr Korda (Czech Republic)
8. Ivan Lendl (U.S.)
9. Andre Agassi (U.S.)
10. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands)



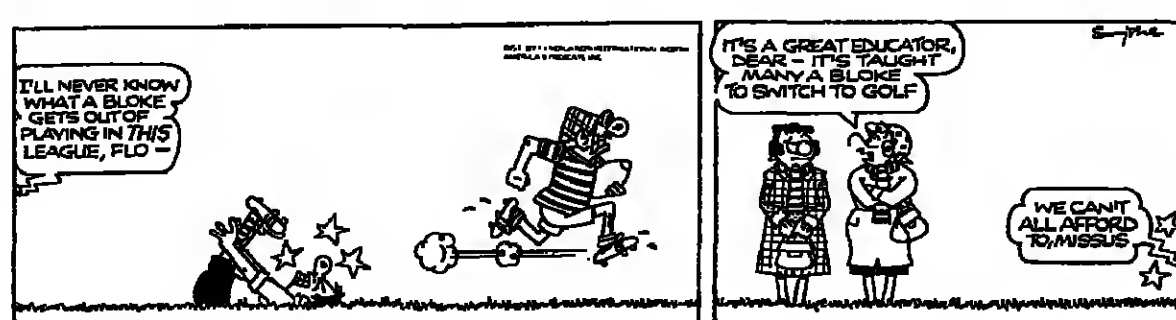
Jim Courier

11. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa)
12. Guy Forget (France)
13. Carlos Costa (Spain)
14. Maliva Washington (U.S.)
15. Michael Stich (Germany)
16. Sergi Bruguera (Spain)
17. Alexander Volkov (Russia)
18. Thomas Muster (Austria)
19. Henrik Holm (Sweden)
20. John McEnroe (U.S.)

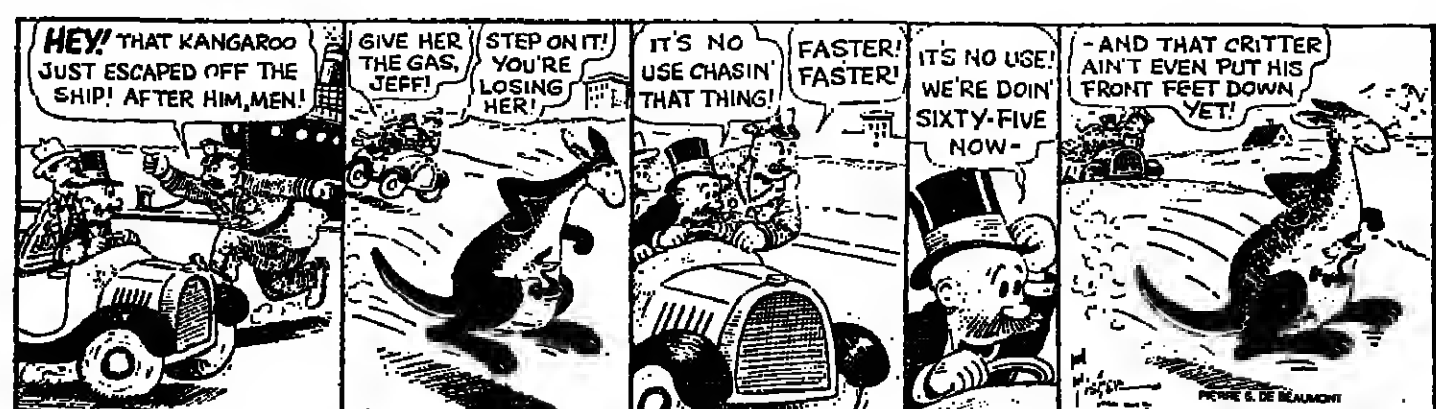
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JANUARY, 13, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

There are no exact aspects today but you may feel a strong and unusual need to be most cooperative with others and not yield to an urge to make problems out of small, unimportant differences.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Avoid early temptation to get involved in a discussion with one of diametrically opposite viewpoints to your own and call off a confrontation.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Do nothing to downgrade your good name early but later you can get out in public and show your capabilities so you can advance your prestige.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think over early here in best speed the day at new activities and sidestep any dreary work routines, by being awake to new interests that appeal.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your hunches are very inaccurate early but soon you get much more in tune with rightness and are able to advance interests tremendously.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Side-step any argumentative person around breakfast time but later you find that practically whatever you do with allies proves pleasant.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) You early feel that your duties are too onerous but soon this clears

up and you see clearly just how you can make yourself a productive schedule.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) Conditions look depressing early but soon a cheerful and happy influence permeates most everyone and you will be able to have a happy time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Consider well how to eliminate friction at home early for later you find that conditions take an upswing and you can have a great time at home.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) After seriously considering how you can best utilize today, get in touch with those who have the information you seek and become imbued with it.

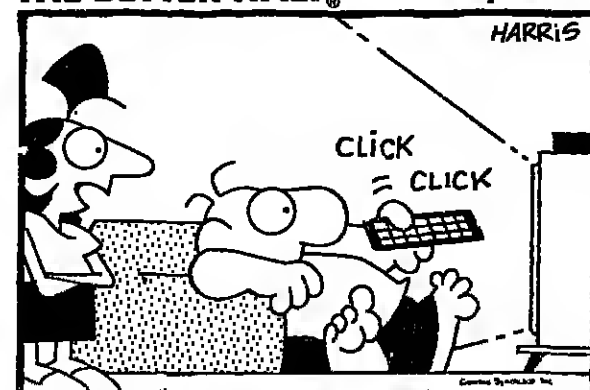
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Although you seem to have a feeling of lack early your natural ability to work out and solve practical plans takes over you and you make big headway.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You feel you do not have enough friends but upon thinking you realize you have many more than you had thought to get in touch with cronies.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You think you are overburdened with problems but if you look at them directly and seek solutions you find you get quickly settled and enjoy handling them.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Where did the first U.S. baby open up?

On the yeast count

WHAT THOSE COMICS HAD FOR BREAKFAST.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: UNSEE, DEACK, YAFFOP, BLOUFE

Answer: WAFER LADLE COWARD PITIED

Answer: What the millionaire used to keep his relatives in line—WILL POWER

Answers tomorrow

Jumbles: WAFER LADLE COWARD PITIED

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Answer: What the millionaire used to keep his relatives in line—WILL

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 11/11/93	Tel Aviv Close Date 11/11/93
Sterling Pound	1.5515	1.5568
Deutsche Mark	1.6340	1.6890
Swiss Franc	1.4920	1.4888
French Franc	5.5245	5.5273
Japanese Yen	125.16	125.05
European Currency Unit	1.2045	1.2097

USD Per JGD

European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.12	3.31	3.43	3.87
Sterling Pound	7.12	6.67	6.66	6.50
Deutsche Mark	8.56	8.25	8.00	7.37
Swiss Franc	5.43	5.43	5.38	5.12
French Franc	11.25	11.12	10.37	9.37
Japanese Yen	3.81	3.68	3.56	3.50
European Currency Unit	10.25	10.21	9.61	9.06

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Metal	USD/Oz	JGD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JGD/Gm
Gold	328.00	6.45	Silver	3.67	.080

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.688	0.690
Sterling Pound	1.0698	1.0751
Deutsche Mark	0.4211	0.4239
Swiss Franc	0.4616	0.4639
French Franc	0.1241	0.1247
Japanese Yen	0.5498	0.5525
Dutch Guilder	0.3752	0.3771
Swedish Krona	0.0936	0.0941
Italian Lira	0.0465	0.0467
French Franc	0.02049	0.02059

Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7950	1.8160
Lebanese Lira	0.03626	0.03945
Saudi Riyal	0.1832	0.1844
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2350	2.2900
Omani Riyal	0.1864	0.1878
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7540	1.7730
UAE Dirham	0.1864	0.1878
Greek Drachma	0.5135	0.5335
Cypriot Pound	1.4173	1.4383

Per 100

CMB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	10/1/93	Close	11/1/93	Close
All-Share	180.53		182.03	
Banking Sector	129.45		130.84	
Insurance Sector	196.58		197.87	
Industry Sector	249.61		251.40	
Services Sector	246.44		247.36	

December 31, 1992 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.5545/55	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2764/69	Canadian dollar
	1.6285/95	Deutsche mark
	1.8280/320	Dutch guilders
	1.4880/85	Swiss franc
	33.43/48	Belgian franc
	5.3250/300	French franc
	1474/1476	Italian lire
	125.20/25	Japanese yen
	7.3200/300	Swedish crowns
	6.9500/600	Norwegian crowns
	6.2800/900	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	328.80/329.20	U.S. dollars

Clinton sobers up to economic reality

WASHINGTON (R) — President-elect Bill Clinton is finding it easier said than done in dealing with the budget deficit he promised to cut in half in four years and is backing away from his pledge.

The deficit he promised to halve during his campaign is now growing faster than he thought so it will take stiffer measures to keep his pledge.

Mr. Clinton told the Public Broadcasting System's "The Macneil/Lehrer Newshour" programme Monday that to live up to his goal would require a massive overhaul of the U.S. health system, where costs far outpace inflation, deeper spending cuts and as well as a faster growth in the U.S. economy.

"We're going to have to cut more in other places than we would have thought otherwise because the deficit's gotten bigger, and we're going to have to move more aggressively on the health care front," Mr. Clinton said.

At the time Mr. Clinton made his pledge, he would have had to cut the deficit by \$145 billion. Recent estimates have put the figure much higher.

Mr. Clinton said dealing with the U.S. budget deficit could require two major results: "One,

will the Congress pass a health care programme which will really bring health care costs in line with inflation? The second thing... is whether we can get enough investment in his economy to grow at a more rapid rate."

His transition team strongly denied that Mr. Clinton is using the worsening budget deficit as political cover to roll back some ambitious campaign promises. Senate minority leader Bob Dole of Kansas charged Sunday that Mr. Clinton should have known by late summer that the budget deficit was going to be much larger than the July estimate given by President George Bush's budget team.

But Mr. Clinton economic adviser Gene Sperling denied this: "If someone thinks that they have a fact or any way that this should have been known, I'd be happy to bear it. We did not know, I swear my life on it."

Mr. Clinton said that he might be able to reach his original goal of reducing the deficit by \$145 billion. "I think we can take that much out of it and maybe more."

But that would still fall far short of halving it since a new Bush administration estimate that the deficit will hit \$305 billion in 1997, up from \$237 billion fore-

cast in July.

Faced with gloomy new predictions about the size of the budget shortfall, Mr. Clinton and his supporters in Congress appear to be rowing back from the promises that clinched victory in the Nov. 3 election.

In a Senate confirmation hearing Monday, Mr. Clinton's choice for budget chief, representative Leon Panetta of California, said "Everything's on the table," as far as economic plans go.

"We need to confront these deficits, to make the tough choices and be prepared for some sacrifice," the 54-year-old Democrat told the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee at his confirmation hearing.

Mr. Panetta backed away from Mr. Clinton's pledge to cut taxes on middle-income families and played down the size of a possible stimulus for the economy: Both cornerstones of the president-elect's plan.

Instead, he emphasised the goal of cutting the deficit.

Mr. Panetta said taxing the rich was most likely the best way to help plug the budget shortfall, but said a sales tax was also an option and that a petrol tax could not be dismissed.

Meanwhile, failed presidential

hopeful Ross Perot launched a membership drive for his grassroots political organisation Monday, pledging to make it a watchdog group that monitors the performance of President-elect Bill Clinton and Congress in cutting the U.S. deficit.

Kicking off the membership drive for United We Stand, Mr. Perot said one of its aims would be to follow the progress of Congress and the Clinton administration in controlling federal spending and reducing the deficit, which was the chief focus of Mr. Perot's unsuccessful 1992 presidential campaign.

"We want to recreate a government that comes from the people, not at the people. We want to reform the federal government at all levels," Mr. Perot told a news conference.

Commenting on Mr. Clinton's cabinet picks, Mr. Perot said the president-elect "is surrounded by people from that system and he's under pressure to leave that system intact, and even make it more valuable."

"Our challenge is not to criticise the president or the Congress, but to create an environment out here in grass-roots America — and believe me, we will have a bullhorn (four hailer)," Mr. Perot said.

The membership drive has been seen as a possible prelude to a second presidential run for the Texas billionaire in 1996.

But Mr. Perot told reporters he had no plans to seek the presidency in four years, adding he would consider it a personal failure if the country's problems were not addressed by then.

Mr. Perot also said there were no plans to turn United We Stand into a third political party, stating: "There's no discussion of that, no intention of that."

United We Stand will promote the membership drive through national advertising and through volunteers, who would go door-to-door and hold meetings to enlist recruits, Mr. Perot said. Annual membership dues will be \$15.

Mr. Perot said he would personally finance the start-up costs of the membership drive, including a series of one-minute television adverts set to begin airing on Jan. 25.

While declining to specify the cost of the drive, Mr. Perot said it would be insignificant, compared to what he spent in the final two months of the campaign.

Mr. Perot spent some \$60 million of his own money on his presidential bid.

Israel approves free trade zone

TEL AVIV (R) — Finance Minister Abraham Shohat Monday approved creation of the first free trade zone in Israel, his ministry said.

Mr. Shohat said the zone would be a turning point in the Labour government's efforts to cut 11 per cent unemployment and stimulate exports. He predicted it would create 20,000 jobs, with all the output exported.

The finance ministry said Mr. Shohat had agreed in principle to establish the zone either in the Negev desert or in the northern Galilee region, two sparsely populated areas with high unemployment.

The plan was proposed by a group of American Jewish investors, Mr. Shohat said he expected foreign investors to pour \$300 million to \$750 million into new industries in the zone.

Finance ministry officials said they expected construction to start in about six months.

Trud estimates about 1m Russians are unemployed

MOSCOW (R) — More than half a million Russians are officially registered as unemployed, but the real number could be much higher, the daily newspaper Trud has said.

The newspaper, the organ of Russia's trade union movement, quoted official statistics saying that unemployment had risen 8.5 times this year. In December 518,000 people were registered as without a job.

"Not everyone qualifies for the status of an unemployed person," the paper said, noting that individuals who had twice refused to accept a job were not included on the register. "The number of

jobless people in December exceeded one million."

In the old Soviet Union, unemployment was condemned as an evil of the capitalist West, but economists say official statistics issued by Moscow during that period masked massive underemployment in virtually every sector of the economy.

Both unemployment and short-time working have climbed last year as economic ties between former Soviet states collapsed and factories struggled to adjust to Russia's faltering moves towards a market economy.

The economy was expected to contract by about one fifth in

1992 and no recovery is in sight in 1993.

Trud said about two million people, or nine per cent of the workforce, were on short-time work. The number of factories operating below capacity was rising.

"The tendency is negative. In most parts of Russia the number of unemployed is rising steadily," the paper said. "The number of job opportunities is three times smaller than the number of people looking for a job."

Trud said about two thirds of those registered as unemployed had qualified for unemployment benefit, but it added: "Can anyone survive on a monthly benefit of 1,000 roubles when the minimum price for staple foods in November was about 3,200 to 3,500 roubles a month?"

Saudi investors buy stake in Saks Fifth Avenue

MANAMA (R) — United Saudi Commercial Bank (USCB) said Monday it had bought a \$100 million stake in Saks Fifth Avenue on behalf of Saudi investors including USCB chairman Prince Al Walid Bin Talal Bin Abdul Aziz.

USCB officials said the stake represents more than 11 per cent of the total book value of the U.S. premier fashion retailer which was put at \$900 million. They said USCB bought the stake on Dec. 22 from the Bahrain-based Investcorp Bank E.C. which with a group of Gulf-based investors acquired Saks for \$1.6 billion in 1990.

Investcorp, which specialises in buying private firms and taking them public, is owned by investors in six Gulf Arab states. Saks was initially capitalised at

\$600 million and in 1992 Investcorp arranged a further \$300 million of growth capital to Saks.

A joint statement issued by USCB and Investcorp said Prince Walid, who became USCB chairman after buying a controlling interest in the bank in 1987, was the principal investor in the transaction.

"USCB arranged on behalf of its Saudi clients the purchase of \$100 million, or just over 11 per cent of the equity of Saks," the statement said.

Last year, Investcorp blamed the tax structure for undisclosed losses incurred at Saks but said the firm had been operating profitably.

Prince Walid, a nephew of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, owns a 15 per cent stake in the New York-based Citicorp and has been consolidating his sharehold-

ing since he became USCB chairman.

The statement said Prince Walid, the largest individual shareholder in Citicorp, invested around \$800 million in Citicorp preferred and common stock in 1990 and 1991.

Bankers say Prince Walid had boosted his stake to around 40 per cent of the Saudi shares in USCB, a joint venture bank, after buying 127,000 shares from another Saudi shareholder.

Three foreign banks — Bank Mellat, United Bank of Pakistan and the London-based Saudi International Bank — each hold 10 per cent of the bank. The rest is held by Saudi investors.

USCB said Saturday its 1992 profit was 209.2 million riyals (\$55.8 million) compared to 187.2 million (\$44.6 million) in 1991.

Europe's Arctic nations revive ancient ties

KIRKENES, Norway (R) — Russia and the Nordic countries agreed Monday to revive 1,000-year-old East-West ties across Europe's Arctic tip, which were broken for decades by the cold war.

Foreign ministers set up a so-called Barents Euro-Arctic Council to promote cooperation in the region.

The council's responsibilities will cover tapping oil and gas to opening a shipping route across the northern coast of Russia as a shortcut cut between Europe and the Far East.

"Expanded cooperation... will contribute substantially to stability and progress in the area and in Europe as a whole," the ministers said in a declaration signed in the Norwegian town of Kirkenes eight kilometres from the Russian border.

In Europe after the cold war "partnership is now replacing the confrontation and division of the past," it added.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg said the agreement marked the end of a

hiatus in a 1,000-year history of cooperation stretching back to Viking times.

The Bolshevik revolution in 1917 ended thriving European trade across the Arctic, an area rich in resources including fisheries, forestry and offshore oil and gas in the Barents Sea.

The Barents Euro-Arctic Council will be a forum for ministers to discuss problems ranging from cleaning the environment to promoting investment in industry and attracting tourists. Decisions must be taken by consensus.

Separately, leaders of local authorities in Arctic Russia, Norway, Finland and Sweden will be able to work on regional projects. The Sami, or Lapp, indigenous peoples, who live from reindeer herding and fisheries, would also take part.

Divided by the cold war — bases of the mighty Russian northern fleet are just over the border — the area has no East-West railways and few roads.

Norway is the only North Atlantic Treaty Organisation country to border Russia.

The ministers said massive investment would be needed.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Russia hoped to open the northern sea route to link the Atlantic and Pacific and allow development of the northern coast of Siberia.

"We're ready to work on a commercial basis with icebreakers," he told a news conference in the Arctic town, 2,500 kilometres from Oslo and lying east of Istanbul.

As a sign of vitality in the region before the Bolshevik revolution, six foreign countries had consulates in the northern Norwegian village of Hammerfest early this century. Now there are none.

Mr. Stoltenberg said Monday's talks focused on Russia's environmental problems, including nuclear dumping in Arctic seas, ageing nuclear power plants and nickel factories.

Environmentalists said the final declaration was toothless — it said the risk of nuclear contamination was "a serious problem and must be solved."

Besides Russia, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland, a representative of the European Commission, also signed the final declaration. Officials from the United States, Germany, Japan, France, Britain, Canada and Poland attended as observers.

Detroit Diesel Distributor Council Elected in Amman for Middle East - North Africa

Amman - January 11, 1993

Detroit Diesel Corporation Middle East & North Africa region distributor principals, representing Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Yemen, Iran, Egypt, Sudan, Cyprus, Pakistan and Turkey met in Amman on Sunday the 10th of January 1993 to form a Middle East/North Africa distributors council. Detroit Diesel Corporation is a major manufacturer of diesel engines and power generation plant with its headquarters in Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A.

Sales of DDC products to the Middle East/North Africa region exceeded \$50 million U.S. Dollars in 1992.

A Distributors Council

comprising 5 members was formed as follows:

Kim Foad Al-Jabbar (Jordan) - President
Riad Al-Jabbar (Saudi Arabia) - Vice President
Salim Kamel (Egypt) - Treasurer
George Olanis (Cyprus) - Secretary
Shamir Khalil (U.A.E.) - Advisor

The Detroit Diesel distributors council will act as one entity for the region instead of separate entities. Major council activities will be resolution of any problems increasing Detroit Diesel penetration into the region and uniform activity co-ordination for the region.

The distributor council will assist all regional distributors in their relations with Detroit Diesel Corporation, as well as arranging for a Middle East & North Africa distributor strategy.

FOR RENT

In Shmeisani near the Marriott Hotel. Newly built two separate floors each with salon, dining, living, three bed rooms, three bath rooms, kitchen & breakfast corner + maid room with separate central heating.

Please call: 662564

TO LET

1. A villa in Sweifieh, composed of three bedrooms with cupboards (one master bedroom), three bathrooms, sitting and dining rooms glassed veranda, terrace and spacious kitchen and a utility room, a large basement and a maid room. Has central heating, telephone and a large garden.
2. A self-contained furnished flat composed of one bedroom, sitting and dining room, kitchen, bathroom. Has separate central heating. Situated in Jabal Weibdeh near Karavan Hotel.

Please phone 662555 or 817912.

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Kevin Costner In Whitney Houston

BODYGUARD

Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Free Car Parking

Tel: 675571

Nabli Al Mashini Theatre

Tuesday January 5th marks the opening of the new theatre season presenting:

Pandemonium (Ta'a wa Qaimah)

Daily at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets office open all day

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Harley Davidson and the Marlboro Man

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Th. + Fr. special show for children at 11:00

The Fox And The Hound

Tel: 625155

AHLAN THEATRE

"Welcome New World Order"

Play will reappear in a new presentation on Jan. 25, 1993 following the theatre's holiday

Happy New Year

Room Wanted To Rent

Australian, new to Jordan, urgently needs to find accommodation. Would prefer to share apartment with another or rent a studio flat.

Call David Ward on 652380

TO LET

A furnished apartment Jabal Amman, between Third & Fourth Circles near Sudanese embassy. Three bedrooms, salon, sitting room, dining room, entrance balcony, kitchen & bathroom, separate telephone.

For information, please call tel. 641379

Bombay riots ebb as army tightens grip

BOMBAY (R) — Army units tightened their grip on Bombay Tuesday to halt what one newspaper described as a virtual pogrom against Muslims, but scattered cases of arson looting and killing continued for the seventh day running.

Police said 10 more people were killed Tuesday in the Hindu-Muslim clashes that have paralysed India's business capital, including a councillor on the Bombay Municipal Corporation shot dead as she was leading Hindu rioters.

Some 240 people have been killed and hundreds of shops and homes set ablaze in an orgy of communal hatred in Bombay and the western city of Ahmadabad, according to police and hospitals.

A heavy military presence has helped stifle the riots, described in an editorial by the Times of India as a calculated assault by Hindus against the minority Muslim community in Bombay, a city previously known for its tolerance.

"There is method in the madness that has descended on the city had there been a virtual pogrom against Muslims," the paper said.

"Only homes, shops and cars belonging to them have been singled out for attack, which bears the stamp of a systematic vendetta."

Politicians and residents said local gang leaders had cashed in on the violence to seize valuable

land, or push out those squatting on sites needed for development.

Troops searched suburbs and seized several caches of arms and ammunition, police said. Banks, the stock exchange and schools remained closed but commuter trains were running.

Fire services reported several blazes in Bombay's western suburbs, but far fewer than in previous days when the sky was blackened with the smoke from scores of shops and warehouses set ablaze, mostly by Hindu mobs.

In the western suburb of Vakhali, Hindu zealots were reported to have destroyed a local mosque, residents said.

Defence Minister Sharad Pawar, who has been directing the security clampdown, said he expected the city of 12 million to return to normal by Wednesday.

An estimated 6,000 troops have been rushed to the city to reinforce police overwhelmed by the violence at the weekend. At least 176 people have died in Bombay and more than 700 have been wounded, mostly in stabbings, while 64 people are reported to have been killed in Ahmadabad.

The bloodshed has led to an exodus of thousands of Muslim families from Bombay. Many more took refuge at the main Victoria railway terminus, waiting for army convoys to restore calm so that they could return home.



A man and children scurry past charred ruins continued in the sprawling Indian port city Tuesday before the Bombay skyline as communal violence (AFP photo)

"Looting and firebombs have reduced our houses to ashes," said Mohammad Aslam, who had lived in Bombay's Dharavi slum area for the past 12 years. "It's better to die here than in our village than die here like this."

"We are being hounded out," said Abdul Karim, the owner of a small stall, as he waited at the station. "I never want to return to this hell again."

The latest violence followed nationwide clashes in December triggered by the destruction of an ancient mosque by Hindu militants in the northern town of Ayodhya.

Hardline Hindus want India, a nation of 870 million people, to be declared a Hindu state. There are at least 100 million Muslims in India, and the ruling Congress Party government has said it is essential to maintain the secular nature of India.

Bombay, a cosmopolitan city where Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Parsis previously lived

mostly in harmony, was virtually under siege over the weekend as marauding mobs marched through the streets, tearing shops and stabling and burning several people.

But by Tuesday the violence appeared to be abating.

The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) said Tuesday it was not anti-Islam but it expected the country's Muslims to accept its programme of "cultural nationalism."

BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani, released from jail Monday after more than a month's imprisonment for fomenting sectarian hatred, said his party was the only one in India which did not consider the 100 million Muslims a "vote-bank."

"What the BJP believes in, it says honestly. It is not anti-Muslim or anti-Islam," Mr. Advani told a news conference in New Delhi. "(The BJP) is honestly and earnestly committed to

secularism."

Mr. Advani, who has been released from custody pending a trial, said the BJP has "a comprehensive programme of action which in course of time will come to be accepted by the Muslims of the country."

"The best guarantee of communal harmony will be acceptance of cultural nationalism," he said.

The BJP says India's binding force is the Hindu culture of 82 per cent of its 770 million people.

Mr. Advani said he was "not ashamed of the destruction of the Ayodhya mosque but repeated that he did not incite the mob to destroy it and had tried to halt the 200,000 zealots who tore it down."

Mr. Advani said the new rioting was not connected to Ayodhya. "What was happened shows that the government has lost the capacity to govern," he said. "It is virtual non-existence and total paralysis of this government."

OIC calls for armed intervention in Bosnia

DAKAR (R) — The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Monday backed a call by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic for armed intervention if Serb forces continued to shell Bosnian Muslims.

"The Serbs should be notified to place the heavy weaponry in their possession under effective international control..." the OIC's closing resolution said.

"If international control cannot be established then the heavy weaponry should be silenced by military means and further military action against strategic targets should be considered."

Mr. Izetbegovic earlier accused the Serbs of using peace talks in Geneva as a smokescreen for military action in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Addressing the OIC emergency meeting in the Senegalese capital, he said Bosnian Muslims would never allow an unjust peace to be imposed upon them.

Mr. Izetbegovic left the Geneva peace talks to fly to Dakar with a plea for diplomatic and financial support for his embattled country.

"I arrived here between two sessions of the Geneva conference which has failed to bring peace to our country," he said.

"It is being used by aggressors only as a cover for continuing aggression against Muslims and other citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

In Geneva, Serbia's nationalist President Slobodan Milosevic threw his weight behind a Bosnian settlement drafted by inter-

national mediators, calling on all three Bosnian factions — including the Serbs — to make it a basis for peace.

But Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, after three hours with international mediators, was still insisting on a mini-state — a demand blocking all progress in the four-month-old talks.

Mr. Izetbegovic and the former Yugoslav republic's Croat leader Mate Boban have already said they accept the constitution proposed by the mediators. Mr. Izetbegovic was expected to return to Geneva Tuesday.

The session of the OIC, which groups 51 Islamic states and organisations, was called to discuss the fate of more than 400 Palestinians expelled to Lebanon by Israel.

But the killing of Bosnia's Muslim deputy premier, Hakiya Turajlic, by Serb gunmen Friday and reports of mass rape and murder of Bosnian Muslims by Serbs added the Balkan crisis to the agenda.

The OIC secretary-general, Hamid Al Ghabid of Niger, called for armed intervention to protect Bosnian Muslims from attacks by Serbs.

He said the United Nations must take action to end Serbian attacks and relieve beleaguered Sarajevo.

"It is quite obvious that the use of force has now become an urgent and unavoidable necessity if one really wants to end the killings in Bosnia-Herzegovina," Mr. Ghabid said.

Charles, Diana in row over press leaks

LONDON (R) — Britain's estranged Prince Charles and Princess Diana were plunged into another embarrassing row Tuesday with accusations that they used news media to publicise rival versions of their marital breakdown.

The heir to the throne and his wife fed details of their rift to different newspaper groups, fueling media frenzy about the relationship, according to a leaked letter from the head of a press watchdog widely quoted in British newspapers.

Headlines said the prince and princess of Wales invited some of the much-criticised media scrutiny of their 12-year marriage — an embarrassment for the couple that dampened prospects of a clean break after their official separation in December.

Princess Diana in particular was criticised in the letter from Lord McGregor, the head of the Press Complaints Commission, for promoting her side of the story through a newspaper group including the tabloid Sun, famous for its royal exposés.

Newspapers gleefully seized on the royal public relations war as ammunition against government-sponsored moves to crack down on the media following outrage over reporting of the private lives of the royals and other public figures.

"Charles, Di and the Dirty Tricks," said the Daily Mirror in a front-page rebuke to the couple and the government, which it said knew about the leaks. "Charles and Diana, far from being victims of a circulation battle by newspapers obsessed with royals were ruthlessly using the press to tell

their side of the troubled marriage story," it said.

The McGregor letter was written to Sir David Calcutt, a lawyer leading an inquiry into press behaviour, who has incensed the press by calling for statutory curbs on the media.

Mr. McGregor, who has confirmed the leaked letter is genuine, said newspaper proprietor Lord Rothermere told him in May 1991 that Prince Charles and Princess Diana had "each recruited national newspapers to carry their own accounts of their marital rifts."

The Daily Mail, part of Mr. Rothermere's associated newspapers group, was one of a number of tabloids that carried stories from early 1991 highlighting strains in the marriage.

The letter also said Prime Minister John Major was told in 1991 that the pair had leaked information to the media. Mr. Major last month announced the separation of Prince Charles, 44, and Princess Diana, 31, whose sons, William, 10 and Harry, eight, are being groomed as royal princes.

Confirmation of widely held suspicions that the royals deliberately washed their dirty linen in public is yet another blow to the reputation of the monarchy and the Buckingham Palace public relations machine, which had repeatedly denied rumours of collusion with the press.

Newspapers and opposition politicians said the revelations could undermine sympathy for the unhappy couple and strengthen calls for a review of Britain's constitutional monarchy.

Cambodia not ready for polls yet — UNTAC

PHNOM PENH (R) — The head of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cambodia — beset by Khmer Rouge intransigence and escalating political violence — says he still hopes to hold elections by May.

Yasushi Akashi, head of the U.N.'s Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), said Monday elections could not be held under the current political climate, but he reaffirmed his intention to proceed with two national polls by May "at the latest."

"The atmosphere and conditions are not yet ripe for free and fair elections," he said on his return from a meeting with Cambodian Head of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Peking.

Mr. Akashi heads the 22,000-strong UNTAC team which is charged with supervising two elections for Cambodia — one for a president and another for a constituent assembly.

The ambitious U.N. peacekeeping mission has been plagued with difficulties caused primarily by the armed intransigence of the radical Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction and escalating incidents of violence directed against opposition political parties.

During the past month, 14 members of the pro-royalist FUNCINPEC Party led by Prince Sihanouk's son have been killed.

The strife, widely believed by

observers to be the responsibility of disgruntled elements of the Phnom Penh government, prompted Prince Sihanouk to temporarily withdraw his support for UNTAC.

On Jan. 8, Mr. Akashi met the prince in Peking and persuaded him to change his mind, offering a range of tough new measures aimed at dealing with political violence.

These include the provision of UNTAC military and police guards at opposition party offices and U.N. magistracies to hear cases against instigators of civil strife.

The UNTAC chief also warned of his intention to sack government or opposition faction officials implicated in pre-election violence.

"I will not hesitate to exercise that authority where necessary and I think that time is approaching when I may have to do it in a more open way than before," he said.

Mr. Akashi said he believed Cambodia was going through a difficult transformation, but the vast majority of people wanted to exercise their freedom of choice for a new democratic government.

He hailed the decision of Prince Sihanouk to resume cooperation with UNTAC and warmly endorsed his candidature.

China plans Hong Kong rules by '95 if Patten plan passed

HONG KONG (R) — Peking will proclaim its own election rules for Hong Kong by 1995 if the colony's legislature defies China and approves Governor Chris Patten's democratic reform proposals, Chinese sources say.

The rival arrangements, to be implemented as soon as Hong Kong returns to China in 1997, would destroy local support for Mr. Patten's package by turning it into a lame duck, they said, requesting anonymity.

The comments, the latest in a series of Peking threats since Mr. Patten announced his proposals last October, could mean throwing out Legislative Council (Legco) members elected in 1995 by the people of Hong Kong well before their mandate expires.

China has already promised to overturn Mr. Patten's package and hold its own elections in 1997 even if Legco approves only a diluted version of the reforms after it goes to the legislature next month.

But the sources gave details of how Peking planned to go about unravelling the democratic reforms, saying that a body would be set up in Hong Kong to consult local people.

This would allow rival rules to be announced before Hong Kong residents voted in the 1995 legislative elections, the first — and apparently last — to be held under Patten rules.

"Legco approval will mean an end to Sino-British cooperation over Hong Kong and the British side going ahead unilaterally with the Patten package," one source

told Reuters.

"The Chinese side will of course go ahead with its own counter measures."

"Some time before 1995 Peking will unilaterally announce a Chinese package on how to form Hong Kong's first legislature in 1997," he said.

Legislators elected in 1995 will have four-year mandates but China's plans could mean throwing them out two years before their terms expire.

China's package would conform with the Sino-British joint declaration on the handover and the basic law, Hong Kong's post-1997 constitution, the sources said.

Peking accuses Mr. Patten of breaking the joint declaration and the Chinese-drafted basic law. But Mr. Patten has denied breaking the 1984 declaration and said the law is silent on arrangements for the 1995 elections, the last to be held under British rule.

Under a timetable agreed between Britain and China, only 20 of Legco's 60 seats will be popularly elected in 1995.

But analysts say Mr. Patten's proposals have exploited grey areas in the basic law to give Hong Kong people far more democracy than China had in mind, albeit still well short of a Western-style parliamentary system.

They include giving all Hong Kong's 2.7 million workers — about half the total population — a vote and filling an election committee with directly-elected local councillors.

Man freed after questioning in Chicago multiple slayings

PALATINE, Illinois (AP) — A man questioned for nearly two days in the restaurant massacre of seven people was released Monday, but a prosecutor said he had not been cleared.

The man was freed almost exactly two days after he was taken into custody, said his lawyer, Dennis Born. Mr. Born had accused police of illegally detaining his client.

Andy Knott, a spokesman for the Cook County state's attorney's office, said, "He's not cleared." Police would not immediately comment.

The Cook County medical examiner's office said Monday five of the seven people slain at Brown's Chicken and Pasta were shot more than once, and at least one victim also was stabbed.

Police discovered the bodies of the married restaurant owners and five employees — including two teenagers — early Saturday after they were called by parents of one of the teens who had not returned from work Friday night. They found a back door open and the bodies inside two walk-in coolers.

Police have refused to discuss suspects, motive or any other details in the slayings in this northwest Chicago suburb.

Mr. Born said his client began refusing to answer questions Sunday night. The man asked for his

attorney but was not allowed to see him until Monday morning, Mr. Born said. He said his client's rights likely had been violated.

He said his client, of nearby Elgin, was in good physical condition when he saw him. "But he's afraid, he's scared, and he wants to go home," Mr. Born said before the man was released.

Mr. Born said police also should end their "close-lipped policy" that has kept details of the crime and the investigation secret even from the victims' families.

Village President Rita Mullins said she believed the police were doing a good job.

"I would rather they err on the side of caution and do everything right rather than to do something haphazard," she said.

The coroner's office said Monday that Marcus Nelsen, 31, and Lynn Ehlenfeldt, 49, were shot once in the head. Mrs. Ehlenfeldt also was stabbed in the neck. The other victims — Richard Ehlenfeldt, 50, Michael Castro, 16, Thomas Meneses, 32, Rico Solis, 17, and Guadalupe Maldonado, 48, suffered multiple gunshot wounds. The Ehlenfeldts owned the restaurant.

Deputy Police Chief Walt Gasior acknowledged Sunday that officers had been questioning several people. He would say nothing about that questioning,

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Man dies in IRA killing

BELFAST (AP) — A Protestant man died in a Belfast hospital Monday night, five hours after he was shot in the head in the first Irish Republican Army (IRA) ambush of 1993. The IRA claimed the man in his 50s was the commander of the Ulster Volunteer Force in East Tyrone, an outlawed Protestant paramilitary group. But local lawmaker Ken Maginnis dismissed the allegation and said he knew the dead man well. The victim was the third person killed in sectarian violence in Northern Ireland this year. Last week, two Catholics were killed by Protestant loyalist gunmen. The latest victim was found slumped at the wheel of his car in Dungannon, County Tyrone, with serious head injuries and taken to Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital where he died, police said.

In another incident, a bomb exploded near a police station in central Belfast Monday night. Police said there were no injuries and damage appeared to be limited to one house.

3 more held in Taiwan scandal

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan Monday detained three people, including the brother of a candidate in parliamentary elections held last month, for suspected involvement in alleged vote-rigging, local media said. Wei Tung-Ho, whose brother Wei Mu-Tsun ran as a candidate for the ruling Nationalist Party in the eastern county of Hualien, was detained for questioning along with two local government officials who served as election supervisors. The detentions brought to 12 the number of people held in connection with a scandal which erupted after Mr. Wei beat opposition leader Huang Hsin-Chieh by 62 votes in Hualien during Dec. 19 general elections.

'Pollution killing Italy's cities'

ROME (R) — "Horrible" levels of pollution threaten to destroy Italy's cities, Environment Minister Carlo Ripa di Meana said Monday. He said the government must adopt an immediate plan to fight pollution. "We have to enact a plan right away or our cities will die," Mr. Di Meana said in an interview with the Turin daily La Stampa. "Pollution levels...are horrible. The only reason doctors hold back from telling the truth about the consequences of pollution is because no-one wants

to spread panic," he said.

Sierra Leone jail boss held

FREETOWN (R) — Sierra Leone's prisons director was arrested after two prominent inmates were executed with 24 other alleged coup plotters, police sources said. They said James Amara and six other prison officers were being questioned on how former police chief James Bambar Kamara and army Colonel James Yaya Kanu managed to conspire in the plot from their prison cells. Amara was suspended shortly after Captain Valentine Strasser's military government announced that the 26 had been found guilty of treason by a special tribunal and sentenced to death by firing squad. The executions were carried out on or before Dec. 30 but the government waited a full week before announcing them.

Venezuela sentences coup plotters

CARACAS, Venezuela (R) — A military court began imposing prison sentences Monday on 225 soldiers and about 25 civilians charged with participating in a bloody coup attempt last November, lawyers for the detainees said. The lawyers, who said they had been expelled from the army fort in the capital where the summary trials were taking place, told reporters some of the men already had been sentenced. There was no immediate comment from the Defence Ministry. The men were arrested for participating in the Nov. 27 uprising in which more than 200 people were killed, many of them civilians. They face sentences of 14 to 30 years on charges of military rebellion.

Tiger leader meets church officials

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran held a rare meeting with church leaders in his northern Sri Lanka stronghold Sunday, the state-owned Daily News reported Tuesday. The paper, quoting informed sources, said Mr. Prabhakaran agreed to release two detained policemen "as a gesture of goodwill to commence peace negotiations." The two are among about 40 police known to be detained by the rebels. Among those who met Mr. Prabhakaran in Jaffna town were Colombo's Anglican Archbishop Kenneth Fernando, and Jaffna's Catholic Bishop Thomas Saundranayagam.

Graft probe targets Craxi

ROME (R) — Magistrates leading a major Italian corruption probe moved Tuesday to ask parliament to lift Socialist leader Bettino Craxi's immunity from prosecution, court sources said.

Mr. Craxi's problems with the law and a bitter power struggle in his party have turned into a major liability for the Socialist-led government of Prime Minister Giuliano Amato, a long-time Craxi protegee.

The leader of Italy's dominant Christian Democrats (DC) has voiced fears the crisis in the Socialist Party could bring down the Amato government.

In a call that rocked Italy's political establishment, DC leader Mino Martinazzoli urged Craxi Monday to take the initiative and himself ask for his immunity to be waived.

"Amato's seat is shaking," warned the Turin daily La Stampa Tuesday. "The Amato government risks falling," echoed the Milan daily Corriere Della Sera.

"The government is in danger," said a front-page banner headline in the left-leaning L'Unita.

The Milan public prosecutor sent a 118-page document to the Justice Ministry Tuesday detailing the case against Mr. Craxi. As

Mr. Craxi is an MP, this has to be passed on to parliament before any legal action can be taken against him.

Parliamentary sources said they expected the request to be formalised later Tuesday or Wednesday.

A committee of MPs will first have to decide whether the request is admissible. If it is, it will then be put to the vote before the 630 members of the lower house. The Socialist leader is under huge pressure to resign before this happens.

A vote would be a major personal embarrassment for Mr. Amato because of his close ties to Mr. Craxi. It could also deeply split Mr. Amato's coalition. The DC, making clear it would not defend Mr. Craxi, has given its MPs freedom to vote as they wished.

For Mr. Craxi, the affair is a shattering blow to the ambitions of a man who only a few months ago had been dreaming of returning to power, imposing a strong French-style presidential regime and eventually becoming its first head of state.

The former premier was on Dec. 15 notified he faced possible charges of corruption, receiving



Bettino Craxi

stolen goods and breaking the law on political party funding. The case covers \$25 million in bribes alleged to have been paid to Mr. Craxi's party.

Mr. Craxi, accusing the Milan prosecutors of pursuing a political vendetta, has denied any personal wrongdoing but acknowledged all parties broke the law on political funding.

Altogether 93 politicians and businessmen — many of them close to Mr. Craxi — have been arrested so far in Milan as part of a probe into a well-oiled system of kickbacks paid to local officials in exchange for lucrative public contracts.

COLUMN

No more 'Passion' beach in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A Malaysian state controlled by a fundamentalist Muslim party has ordered the name of a well-known tourist spot — the Beach of Passionate Love — to be changed. Instead it will be called Moonlight Beach, the New Straits Times newspaper said Tuesday in a report of the renaming by the northeastern state of Kelantan, which is governed by the Partai Islam Se-Malaysia. The newspaper said that while no Kelantan official was willing to explain the change, "it was obvious that they did not want such a popular tourism spot in Kelantan to conjure images of lust and desire."

Rooster ruffles feathers

MELBOURNE (R) — An Australian lawyer is taking his neighbours to court claiming damages for alleged stress caused by the crowing of their family rooster. Solicitor Con Kay issued a writ in Melbourne's county court claiming unspecified damages from cameraman Roh McKay and his radiographer wife, Rene, who owned the noisy bantam, Goldie.

Rene McKay said she was surprised to receive the writ in December as she thought the dispute had been settled a year earlier when they decided to lock Goldie inside at night after Mr. Kay first wrote to them to complain of the noise. She said the rooster had been returned in the last month to his former owners, friends of the McKays who live in the same Leafy suburb, but Mr. Kay intended to pursue the legal action.

China selects 'cat prince'

PEKING (R) — China, where two decades ago raising a pet was a counter-revolutionary offence, has selected a "cat prince" to a beauty contest in Shanghai, the Xinhua news agency said.

"Luoluo," a three-year-old male Persian cat, won the title Sunday at the Shanghai cat contest, the first of its kind in China. More than 200 people tramped through the cold rain to offer their pet cats to the judges for examination, the news agency said. China's hard-line communists once condemned pet raising as a bourgeois fill for the leisure classes.

'High' tides hit Algarve beach

LISBON (R) — Heavy seas washed an underwater cache of hashish onto a beach in southern Portugal, thwarting smugglers who had attached it to offshore buoys, police said Monday. "So far we've recovered 1,200 kilograms of hashish and two teams of divers and sniffer dogs are still finding more," a police spokesman told Reuters by telephone.

Storms on Dec. 22 threw the first packages onto a beach near Albufeira, one of the largest tourist resorts of Portugal's southern Algarve coast. Police had been fishing for drugs there since then, the spokesman said.

Eros statue looks set to retire

LONDON (R) — Eros, the winged statue that has acted as a beacon for generations of tourists in central London's Piccadilly Circus, may have to be replaced, restoration experts said Monday.

The three-metre aluminium figure was removed from its pedestal three weeks ago for restoration but experts said they were baffled how to make repairs that would last. Restorer Andrew Naylor said the leg had already been welded and filled with molten aluminium but now experts were running out of ideas. "We are investigating resins but that's almost it, really. Everything else has been tried and failed," Naylor said. The statue, erected in June 1893, could be put on show in a museum and replaced with an aluminium replica made after a previous restoration.

Boishoi gets pasting

LONDON (R) — Russia's legendary Bolshoi Ballet has received a pasting from British critics for a new programme of dance highlights aimed at introducing ballet to the masses. Billed by promoters as the "Dance event of the century," the five-week season at London's 3,800-seat Albert Hall opened to a chorus of scorn and disappointment from reviewers.

"I was almost weeping for the Bolshoi I know and love, heartbroken that newcomers would judge its real merits from these displays," Guardian dance critic Mary Clarke wrote on Monday.